

HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD
ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT OF
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
1998



Published by
THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, ADYAR
CHENNAI 600 020, INDIA

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Presidential Address

To the 123rd Annual Convention of the Theosophical Society, Adyar,
26 December 1998

I warmly welcome all the delegates to this 123rd Annual Convention of the Theosophical Society. This is always a time for great rejoicing and inspiration. Added to this experience are the peace and the sense of an immortal life beyond the mundane, which the atmosphere of Adyar evokes in the sensitive heart, even amid as many people and as much activity as we have at Convention. Let us extend to our brothers and sisters who are unable to be present, but who share in spirit the inspiration of this great event, the joy, peace and blessing that are ours, and turn for a while to those Holy Ones who live in eternal peace:

May Those who are the embodiments of Love Immortal bless with Their help and guidance this Society founded to be a channel for Their work. May They inspire it with Their wisdom, strengthen it with Their power, and energize it with Their activity.

From time to time one marvels how the Society's work has been carried on for so many years in spite of numerous attacks, obstacles, and at times the disloyalty and failure of trusted colleagues. From where did those who were at the forefront of the Society's work at the international, national, or local levels derive their strength?

The servants of truth have little rest. When Theosophy is not just a theory or even a new philosophy of life, but kindles someone's heart with the flame of truth, life may be hard or stormy. For Olcott, Annie Besant and many others who sacrificed everything that the world considers desirable, the only thing that mattered was to live according to the truth they realized through their knowledge of Theosophy. Theosophy needs to be studied, not with the intellect or a mind burdened with many previous ideas, but with

the freshness of a consciousness whose only aim is to find the truth that alleviates the world's suffering and liberates those who sacrifice their personal wants for the sake of the world's welfare. Annie Besant studied the Christian Fathers and scriptures and a variety of subjects but, because her mind was open, a reading of *The Secret Doctrine* set her aflame and enabled her to serve the world along new lines, abandoning much, including the esteem of former friends.

This year several stalwarts passed over to activity on higher planes. Mrs Madeleine Leslie-Smith, who had been Chairman of the European Federation, and was particularly popular with young people, died in July. Mr Norman Hankin, a dedicated member of the Australian Section, who was the Resident Head of the Manor Centre until recently, shed his physical body in September. Mr C.M. Chandarana, a

veteran of Nairobi Lodge, died at the age of 93 after fifty-five years of service in East Africa. These stalwarts and many others who have shouldered the burden of responsibility in their own areas were inspired by the truth they found through contact with Theosophy. That gave them the energy, the steadfastness, and the inspiration to do outstanding work, with unswerving devotion and true brotherly feeling.

Sacrifice is joy for people who have even a glimpse of truth, and for them repose is no longer attractive. Unfortunately, for many others who join the Society, Theosophy is not a light to illumine the way to truth, and they lack the zeal and determination to toil selflessly, unmindful of personal interests and discomforts. Hence, from everywhere we hear that there is a paucity of workers and the whole weight of the work, from giving lectures to cleaning the Lodge room, often falls on the dauntless few.

In her article 'Is Theosophy a Religion?', H.P. Blavatsky wrote:

Its [Theosophy's] doctrines, if seriously studied, call forth, by stimulating one's reasoning powers and awakening the *inner* in the animal man, every hitherto dormant power for good in us, and also the perception of the true and the real, as opposed to the false and the unreal.

In very many groups all over the world members are studying theosophical literature and trying to grasp the essential doctrines and teachings. But something must be lacking, for the dynamic change that HPB refers to in this passage does not

occur. If the reasoning and perceptive faculties and the power to do good which, according to her, result from the study unfolded even in a small percentage of the students, a greater zeal and intelligent concern would be evident in our Sections and Lodges. Many more members would plunge into activities and take responsibility in a spirit of altruism and hearty cooperation.

Let us consider what is lacking. Perhaps there is no understanding of what we mean by study. The study of all subjects other than that which leads to the Eternal is largely dependent on accumulating information and using the intellect. But true spiritual or theosophical study which shows the way to the Supreme must be different. It does not consist of just reading books, and having discussions in which participants project their ideas and opinions in what Miss Ianthe Hoskins once called an interchange of ignorance. Secondly, the study must throw light on the great problems of life — the problem of sorrow, of discovering the true meaning and purpose of life, and so forth.

As HPB pointed out to her students, energy must not be dissipated on unessentials and trivialities, but brought to bear fully on the words of the wise, spoken or written. The mind must be divested, she advised, of all ideas derived 'by heredity, from education, from surroundings, or from other teachers'. It must be fresh and free in order really to hear what is said. There must be an attentive observation of life and a pondering that makes the

content of what is read or heard true for oneself and relevant to the problems that are faced. The earnest student studies not only books but also nature in all its manifestations, including the workings of the human mind and the deceptions it practises, as well as the meaning and beauty of all living forms. If study is seriously done in this way, there is a radical change in the manner of our living. Serious study implies that our attention and attempts to understand must not be casual, intermittent, or superficial. The journey towards the Supreme or the Eternal is the highest of human goals.

Here and there, members are studying what they believe is Theosophy, presuming that almost everything unusual or vaguely philosophical or religious is Theosophy. But as the literal meaning of the word indicates, Theosophy is the ancient wisdom teaching which awakens the human consciousness to its own nature and to its unitary relationship with all that exists. There are infinite possibilities of awareness — of beauty, significance and love — in consciousness, and their unfolding is repressed by dogmatic ideas, rigidity of mind and blind belief. Teachings which do not lead towards altruism, spiritual discernment, harmonious and compassionate action, and inner freedom, have little to do with Theosophy.

People may think that humanity's reasoning powers have reached great heights and have proved their worth by remarkable achievements. True enough, by using rational faculties humanity has discovered many laws of

nature and invented such things as the highly sophisticated computers which are employed to probe the skies and the planets. But the same human mind is unable to reason correctly in regard to simple matters. Extraordinary powers are not needed to see that a continual increase in the stock of armaments makes the world more and more dangerous, violent and insecure. Why do not people realize that wars and conflicts increase hatred and that hatred breeds wars? Even the clever people of this world do not abstain from brutality and cruelty to children, women, prisoners and millions of animals in laboratories, factory farms, and cages. Only simple reasoning is needed to realize that this must rebound on the human consciousness. The callousness and atrocities practised by human beings on other humans, including massacres and genocides, are the direct result of cultivating brutality. Similarly, the promotion of greed for money or power or pleasure accentuates selfishness and downgrades basic values.

Clearly, the mind which displays extraordinary rational capacity when its own fame, vanity, success and so forth are at stake, is unable to see connections in obvious and crucial everyday matters. For convenience, if we make a distinction between rational and reasoning powers, we may say that the former is grounded in selfish motivation, while Reason or Buddhi is pure and intelligent perception of connections. Study of the divine wisdom is intended to stimulate Reason, which develops along with the dormant power for good within us.

Then in time the sun of truth will dawn upon consciousness, as in the clear and tender sky of early morning.

The quest for truth, through deep study of the wisdom teaching, contemplation, and purification of the mind, is intimately connected with the vitality and effectiveness of the Theosophical Society's work. Every aspect of that work, whether it is presiding over a meeting or performing humble tasks for the Lodge, should be infused with this high purpose. If we ensure that the Society is composed at least largely of seekers after the truth who realize the unitary nature of existence at least to some extent, it will continue to be a powerful instrument in the hands of those beneficent forces which guide not only the physical but the moral and spiritual evolution of this planet.

During the year, extensive tours have been made by several lecturers, apart from the travelling and speaking at national and regional levels. Mr Conrad Jamieson, International Secretary, lectured and conducted seminars in Holland, France, Italy and England. Miss Joy Mills spoke in Finland, Estonia and Holland, and at the European Congress which took place in Italy. The Vice-President, Miss Mary Anderson, also lectured at the European Congress and visited numerous places in Holland, Switzerland, Germany, Scotland, Italy, Slovenia, Austria and Israel. Later she conducted a study course at the Indian Section headquarters in Varanasi, and gave lectures in Karachi in Pakistan. I spoke at the South African Convention in Johannesburg,

and later visited other towns in South Africa, Zambia, Tanzania and Kenya. At the invitation of the Australian Section, I also conducted a spiritual seminar in their Springbrook Centre and spent some time at the Manor in Sydney, apart from presiding over several Federation Conferences in India.

I am glad to say that the Theosophical Order of Service is active in many countries and notable work is being done by its groups to alleviate suffering. This inevitably generates goodwill towards the Theosophical Society in local communities and people are drawn to examine theosophical teachings of which they might never otherwise have heard, as pointed out by Mrs Diana D. Chapotin, the Secretary of the Order. Their magazine, *The Service Link*, serves an important purpose by providing information, offering suggestions and stimulating interest. Some pages of this magazine are in Spanish.

The Indian Section's membership has risen to 12,226. An Acting General Secretary, Mr Umakanth Rao, was appointed after ill health obliged the previous General Secretary, Mr M.P. Singhal, to resign. The Presidents, Secretaries and some senior members of the Federations in South India were invited to a Regional Conference held in Bangalore in August to consider ways and means to activate better participation by members in the work of the Society. The training of theosophical workers, propagation of Theosophy through regional languages, and effective management of properties were among the subjects

discussed. It is expected that such conferences will be organized in other regions. Every Federation in India organizes its own conference each year, and lectures and study camps take place regularly. Among books translated into vernacular languages were *The Key to Theosophy* in Hindi and *The Voice of the Silence* in Gujarati.

A unique programme is said to have been organized in the small town of Malegaon in the State of Maharashtra to promote brotherhood among Hindus and Muslims, in which more than 250 people from both communities participated. Such practical initiatives to demolish psychological barriers are of great value; and there are many other areas in which members of the Society can pioneer reform. Such work also helps to convince the public that Theosophy is not just a subject for theoretical study, but has a great practical bearing on all human problems.

Pakistan is facing many difficulties, but work is going on in Karachi and Hyderabad (Sind). In Bangladesh, which was formerly part of India, a new Lodge chartered at Chittagong brings the number of Lodges to three. Interest has been created in a few other places also, with Mr B.L. Bhattacharya of Calcutta encouraging members with basic books and copies of the quarterly Bengali magazine, and rendering other necessary help. Singapore Lodge attracted a considerable number of new members after its Secretary, Mr Chong Sanne, presented three courses on basic Theosophy. Its library has been

reorganized and its inventory computerized. It is reported that regular meetings are being held in Colombo. In other places in Sri Lanka meetings are held sporadically and much work needs to be done for the Section to recover the strength it had before political problems became acute.

Two new books were put on sale in Indonesia during the Convention, which was held in May 1998 in the premises of Sala Lodge. It was decided to make this the permanent venue for their Annual Convention. The books translated and distributed were *At the Feet of the Master* and *An Introduction to Theosophy* consisting of lectures by Geoffrey Hodson. The conditions in the country are deplorable, and membership has decreased. The Philippine Section has produced an electronic edition of *The Secret Doctrine. The Theosophical Digest*, which it publishes, will appear in local editions in India and Malaysia, which might increase its circulation. Mr Vic Hao Chin, the General Secretary, has lectured widely, not only in his own country but also in Australia and Japan.

The Australian Section is going ahead with preparations for the World Congress, which will be held in Sydney in January 2001, in the campus of the University of New South Wales, which is close to the city centre. The campus has a fine auditorium and comfortable living accommodation. The National President has visited and spoken at many Theosophical Lodges and Centres. The programmes held in the Section's Springbrook Centre have

been very successful, including the Australian School of Theosophy, and the Section has been assisting students from Pakistan, New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Dr Robert Ellwood, known to the theosophical world through his books, was the Guest Speaker at the New Zealand Convention in January 1998. In this Section too, the General Secretary and others have lectured in all the Lodges and Centres. A highlight of the year was the visit and tour of Dr Richard Brooks (retired Professor of Philosophy, Oakland University, USA), which is reported to have given 'a great lift' to the members. The fall in membership in what used to be a strong Section has been arrested to some extent. Yet the General Secretary, Mr Gavin Laurie, mentions that, while HPB Lodge in Auckland made most of the gains, some of the Branches are struggling to hold their own.

The General Secretary of the West African Section Mr Kwakyi, referring to the role of TS members, says that according to their Akan tradition, it is the few upright men with high principles and moral courage who fashion and nourish the life of society at large. How true this is! Membership in West Africa is distributed over four countries, with 170 members in Ghana, 96 in Nigeria, 42 in Cameroon and 6 in Liberia, making a total of 314. One of the members in Ghana joined the Society 66 years ago, three years before Blavatsky Lodge at Accra was chartered on 17 November 1935; four others have been members for

more than fifty years. Two new Lodges were chartered during the year, one of which was named after the former President N. Sri Ram. In this Section, conferences, study camps and other activities, such as a worker's course on 'Theosophical Perspectives on Current World Problems and Issues' are all fully based on Theosophy.

The report from the Regional Association in the Ivory Coast mentions that membership has risen from 39 to 62. They held the equivalent of a summer school and during every weekend organized prayers for group consciousness, brotherhood and Divine Light. The Organizing Secretary in Togo was unfortunately involved in an accident and we have not had much communication as a result.

The East African Section expects Uganda to be back on the theosophical map again. There were seven active Lodges there at one time, all of which were closed in 1972. Because of the effort made lately by Mr and Mrs V.M. Shah and the lectures given by the National Lecturer, Mr Reuben Thuku, interest and enthusiasm have been generated to start a Lodge in Kampala, the capital city, where monthly meetings are being held. In Kenya, there is good demand for theosophical books, but few people in Africa can afford to buy books unless the prices are very low. The National Lecturer, Mr Thuku, also visited Tanzania and primarily addressed educational institutions, but also spoke at Lodges and on television. The East African Section distributes *The Theosophist* to State libraries and universities.

In Southern Africa, the eighty-eighth National Convention and hundredth anniversary of Johannesburg Lodge were celebrated at Easter, and the Premier of the Province opened the session. Delegates came from neighbouring and overseas countries. In spite of escalating crime, there is improved attendance at public lectures and meetings. The General Secretary, Mr T.G. Davis, has lectured in all the Lodges as well as in other countries. The future prospect seems good.

There have been many problems in the Greek Section. Their report does not inform us of the work done by their 7 Lodges, nor are we able to assess the contents of their magazine *Ilisos*, which has a circulation of about 1500. The Section's Rules and Regulations are not in conformity with the International Rules, and we are awaiting a change.

In Italy, the General Secretary, Mr Girardi, has been in contact with almost all the Lodges. As in previous years, apart from the Annual Convention, a seminar was organized near Sorrento under the auspices of the European Federation, which brought together members from all over Italy. Several Italian translations of theosophical books were printed or reprinted during the year. The highlight of the year was the European Congress held in a beautiful place on Maggiore Lake with delegates from twenty countries.

The work in Portugal goes on as before, apparently under difficulties. The Spanish General Secretary reports that the TS is growing there in terms

of both numbers and the quality of the work. Their magazine *Sophia* is distributed to several Spanish-speaking countries.

The General Secretary for France mentions that in the provinces some groups are very active, but there are other Lodges which are inactive. The French Section will celebrate its Centenary in 1999 and it is hoped that this will be a new beginning. Their numbers are reduced since many of the French-speaking members in West Africa are no longer counted as members of the French Section. The work in Belgium goes on as usual with 4 Lodges in Brussels and 4 others outside the capital.

The General Secretary of the Dutch Section reports that membership is increasing and work is proceeding satisfactorily. They are trying to build up gradually new groups where there were none previously. As in many other countries, in Germany there are only a few members who are willing to share in the work in a regular and responsible way. Every year a School of Theosophy is held. Increased public relations work is being planned. In Austria, the Section is weak with very few members and only three Lodges. The TS in Hungary is continuing its work in groups which are now studying *The Foundations of the Esoteric Philosophy*. The Presidential Representative reports that they try to bring 'these concentrated texts nearer to everyday life'. A glossary of theosophical terms is being prepared to use in translation work. In Slovenia, they have tried to form a study group in a new town, namely Maribor. Dr

Taimni's *Self Culture* was translated and published. We are told that interest in peripheral matters such as parapsychology and alternative healing techniques has come in the way of the theosophical work.

When the Finnish Section celebrated its ninetieth anniversary in Helsinki, with about 250 people present, the former General Secretary, Mrs Kirsti Elo, outlined the history of the TS in Finland, and a commemorative publication of talks given by Mr Yrjö Killinen in the TS Lodge from 1941 to 1954 was issued. Mr Killinen was known throughout the country as a charismatic speaker and advocate of peace. He became Defence Minister after having been Vice-President of the TS in Finland and an active worker. The TS in Estonia continues to be supported by the Finnish Section.

The group in Denmark, with 34 members and one Lodge, has been active offering public lectures and members' meetings. They have established a home page on Internet and started a new quarterly magazine, the name of which is the Danish equivalent of *Contemporary Theosophy*. The Theosophical Society in Norway and Denmark have planned to work in cooperation to strengthen the Society in both countries, to which end a meeting was held in the house of the Presidential Representative in Denmark, Mr Flemming Hansen. In spite of many difficulties, steady work is going on to strengthen the Norwegian Section. In Sweden also, work is continuing steadily. In Iceland there is much activity in Reykjavik, and three

Lodges outside that city meet regularly. Their summer school had Professor Krishna as Guest Speaker. He delivered several lectures and held discussions. Unfortunately, Mr Einar Adalsteinsson, who retired recently as General Secretary and was a valuable worker, died in an accident during the European Congress in Italy.

The Chairman of the European Federation, Miss Kim-Diêu, again visited Russia and the Ukraine. In Moscow she conducted seminars and discussions on 'Essential Qualifications for the Spiritual Life' based on *At the Feet of the Master* and *Vivekachudamani*, and in the Ukraine on 'Theosophy applied to Science, Religion and Society'. Vegetarian food was provided at these well-attended gatherings, which encouraged further study and understanding of theosophical subjects. The European Federation continues to support the revival of Theosophy in various parts of Eastern Europe by funding publications and so forth, besides coordinating and encouraging work in Western Europe. The Federation also promotes spiritual awareness through its seminars and study weekends organized regularly at the International Centre at Naarden. In the coming year there will be a workers' gathering in July, when the International President is expected to be present.

The English General Secretary, Mr Peter Barton, reports that two major papers on the future of the TS in England were presented during the year. One of them defined imperatives. As a result, there are plans to make

the best use of resources, especially those in London and in Tekels Park. They seem to be on the point of arresting the decline in membership and also have fewer unattached members. Mrs Helen Gething visited both Northern Ireland and Dublin, which has been very encouraging for them. In Scotland they had several visiting lecturers and membership increased. The work in Wales proceeds modestly.

Dr John Algeo, the National President of the TS in America, draws attention in his report to its being the oldest and second largest of the National Societies. It has 127 Lodges and study centres and a large number of members-at-large. This year there is an increase in the number of members. Over 200 courses have been offered under the sponsorship of the Olcott Institute. New Quest books are being published all the time. The Quest Bookshop at the national headquarters in Wheaton has been renovated so as to attract more passersby.

The Canadian Federation mentions that enquiries come in steadily through e-mail, but have not so far culminated in many applications for membership. E-mail has helped members in this vast country to get into closer touch with each other.

The report from Puerto Rico mentions that much work needs to be done in this Section. Mr Fernando Torrijos visited the Section and gave lectures which created much enthusiasm. He also spoke over the radio and on television.

The General Secretary for Mexico

reports that the Young Theosophists movement was reactivated at the National Headquarters. Two new Lodges and a study centre were started. There is no report from Central America, but the Presidential Representative in Costa Rica reports that lectures and study sessions go on steadily. They are trying to strengthen the only study group outside the capital.

In Colombia, meditation, public lectures and study sessions as well as musical events are included in the programme. A basic course in Theosophy is made available on video cassettes. A series of public lectures was organized at the headquarters of the Society in Venezuela and the Presidential Representative, Mrs Lasso Salas, gave a lecture on 'Divine Wisdom, India's Legacy for Today' at the Indian Embassy, when the latter celebrated fifty years of independence. The Round Table at Caracas offers theosophical perspectives to children.

There has been some increase of members in Brazil. Two new study centres were formed in the northern part of the country. The General Secretary mentions that — as in many other countries — the work rests on the shoulders of a small group of devoted members. Books are being published regularly in Portuguese. The national library was reorganized, and they are collecting theosophical books in all languages and would welcome gifts. Great results are expected from putting the TS on the television map.

In Argentina, the General Secretary travelled widely and maintained close contact with the Lodges. Their

bimonthly journal is in its third year. Members gather often for events in their Centre in San Raphael. A course on theosophical fundamentals will be put on their website. There is considerable interchange between the Argentine and Uruguayan Sections.

In spite of continuing difficulties, 12 Lodges are active in Cuba. Basic courses for new members have been updated. At the Annual Convention of the Section, the General Secretary, Mr Gaspar Torres, described his experiences at the School of the Wisdom and the International Convention at Adyar, and young members presented *At the Feet of the Master* in dramatized form. Membership in Chile, Peru and Bolivia is small, but there is much devotion and enthusiasm.

Coordinating all this work is the Inter-American Federation, which held a Conference at 'Olcott', Wheaton, in September. This brought together several General Secretaries and representatives from Central and South America. Talks were given by Dr John Algeo and workshops explored ways of energizing the Lodges and highlighting fundamentals in order to sustain the spirit and character of theosophical work. The Federation also organized a summer school in Bolivia with 120 participants from 11 countries.

Among the Lodges directly attached to Adyar are three in Japan, one in Korea and Covenant Lodge in Israel. Mr Vic Hao Chin, President of the Indo-Pacific Federation, spoke to the Lodges in Japan and also discussed the needs of Korea. Covenant Lodge, with 58 members, has a mailing list of 1600, out of which they have created a

category called 'semi-members' who form a 'Circle of Friends of the TS'. Apparently they pay dues but have not applied for membership!

Activities at Adyar have been varied. The Adyar Library has been a centre of research, publications and service to readers for a hundred and twelve years, which scholars and students from all over the world appreciate. Computerization of the Library's inventory has proceeded apace and users can now get information regarding the Oriental Section holdings through the Reading Room computer. Miss K. Jaishree took an advanced course in the conservation of manuscripts, books and other material, which will be valuable for both the library and the archives, where also there is an enormous amount of preservation work to be done.

The Theosophical Publishing House brought out several new books, including a much awaited, illustrated and up-to-date book on Adyar, with an accompanying booklet giving a historical retrospect. A collection of articles and talks of Mr Surendra Narayan, former Vice-President, under the title *Life is for Living*, has been sponsored by his family and published in his eightieth year. A new Adyar Pamphlet Series has been started, the first of which is Dr John Algeo's Besant Lecture on 'Living Theosophy'. *Food for Thought*, written by a member in Singapore, was printed to create awareness of the immense cruelty practised on animals bred for food. An initiative has been taken to provide a much larger public with our books by

keeping prices low for developing countries and appointing suitable distributors and agents in areas where there were none. Gifts of books and the journals we produce have been made to libraries and other institutions.

There were two sessions of the School of the Wisdom during this year. The first one on 'Daily Life as Spiritual Practice' was directed by Prof. Ravi Ravindra. The second one, directed by Dr Richard Brooks, was a course on comparative religion, science and philosophy, and the relation between Theosophy and parapsychology. Students from several different countries attended both these courses, and we are grateful to the two professors for their valuable contribution.

The Olcott Memorial School is developing well, both academically and in other areas, under the guidance of Mrs Padma Srinath, who was appointed as Director of the school, and Dr Aruna, who is Coordinator of Studies with Mr G. Gautama as Secretary of the School. Dr Aruna is also Director of the Banyan Centre for Educators. The last annual check-up of children in the first three classes showed that no child suffered from malnutrition, which may be attributed to the nutritious breakfast and midday meal provided. This is an achievement, considering the deprivation in which their families live. Improved health has helped children to perform better on the sports field. Teachers have benefited from workshops organized by Banyan to upgrade skills and enlarge their

perception of the educator's role. A year-long workshop on spoken English, and another one on Mathematics curricula were very useful. Banyan will also collect data on careers and higher educational opportunities in order to guide children leaving school.

The HPB hostel has now 30 children, which is about twice the number it had before. They receive much more educational support than earlier under the new Warden, Mr Anantapadmanabhan, assisted by Mrs Girija Rangarajan. The Social Welfare Centre has continued to serve pre-school children (of whom there are about 150) and their mothers.

During the year, more than three thousand scouts, guides and children camped in our beautiful Besant Camping Centre. Among them were 98 deaf and dumb children and 58 tribal children from the neighbouring State of Karnataka. During their stay a number of children cleaned the beach as part of their study of environmental needs. A programme called 'Dear Population' highlighted the multifarious problems resulting from overpopulation. In all these camping activities, the emphasis was on cleanliness, character and protection of Nature. I take this opportunity to express hearty appreciation of the dedicated work done by the Director of the Camping Centre, Mr S. Venkataraman, and his colleague Mr Victor Frank.

A great deal of renovation and repair work has taken place on the estate, including changes in Leadbeater Chambers. First floors have been

constructed on two houses to accommodate Convention delegates. A lift was installed in the Headquarters Building, and classrooms in the Olcott School have been spruced up. Much work has been done in the garden also: Antigonum and other plants which proliferate at the expense of the rest of the garden are being eradicated. Plans

are being made by a competent landscape artist to beautify Olcott Gardens, which will be put into effect from January onward.

I express my thankfulness to all my colleagues of all ages, in all the offices and departments, who have given unstintingly of their services in a spirit of real cooperation and harmony. ✧

THE TREASURER'S REPORT

AND

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 1998

I. Departments:

Department	1997-98	1998-99
Maintenance	1,244,434	2,283,733
Garden	299,000	692,250

The amount spent for maintenance and improvement of the building by the Maintenance Department has gone up significantly in the current year. The current year will continue as many buildings need to be renovated in addition to attending to routine maintenance of the estate.

Year ended March 31 1998
Year ended March 31 1997

1997-98 1998-99

1,244,434 2,283,733

299,000 692,250

1,543,434 2,975,983

B. Expenditure:
The net expenditure for the year ended 31 March 1998 compared to Rs. 1,543,434 for the previous year is an increase of Rs. 1,432,549. This is mainly accounted for by the kitchen and maintenance department. The details are as follows:

The gross income of the Society for the year is Rs. 10,801,148. This is mainly constituted by income from investments and to some extent the provision of fees and dues from the Societies. The surplus in the Theological Publishing House has come down from Rs. 1,244,434 in the previous year to Rs. 299,000 in the current year. As compared to the previous year, the volume of sale of our papers and books has gone up during the year and is expected to grow further in the current year.

The important feature of the year as detailed above is that the surplus of the Society is Rs. 10,801,148. This is a record for the Society and is a result of the various measures taken by the Society to improve its financial position.

TREASURER'S REPORT — 1997-98

The important features of the year are as follows:

A. Income:

The gross income of the Society for the year is Rs.10,801,148 /-. This is mainly contributed by income from investments and to some extent the realization of fees and dues from the Sections. The surplus in the Theosophical Publishing House has come down due to lower unit price realization as reflected in the accounts. The selling prices of our publications have been reduced to ensure that they are affordable to our members and the public. As compared to the previous year, the volume of sales of our publications has gone up during the year and is expected to grow further in the coming years.

B. Expenditure:

The net expenditure of the departments for the year is Rs.3,498,033/-, compared to Rs.1,932,715/- for the previous year, an increase of Rs.1,565,318/-. This is mainly accounted for by the Garden and Maintenance departments. The details are as follows:

	Year ended March 31,1997 Rs	Year ended March 31,1998 Rs.	Increase/ Decrease Rs.
Bhojanasala & Leadbeater Chambers	138,641	122,050	-16591
Garden	249,620	632,250	+382,630
Maintenance	<u>1,544,454</u>	<u>2,743,733</u>	<u>+1,199,279</u>
	<u>1,932,715</u>	<u>3,498,033</u>	<u>+1,565,318</u>

1. Departments:

The amount spent for renovations, repairs and improvement of old buildings by the Maintenance Department has gone up significantly in the current year. The current trend will continue as many buildings need to be renovated, in addition to attending to routine maintenance of the estate.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In respect of the Garden Department, the overall deficit is high due to gross loss in the cultivation account and other maintenance costs.

A considerable amount was spent on manuring the trees during the year. The deficit in the garden will continue as the programme to beautify the estate is being implemented and also there is a considerable amount allocated to removal of antigonum and other weeds.

2. Charitable Work

The amount spent on charitable work is Rs.1,204,808/- as against Rs.1,601,396/- for the previous year. However, the renovation of school buildings and other costs associated with the running of the school and animal welfare work will add to these costs significantly in the coming years.

3. Propagation of Theosophy:

The net expenditure on propagation of Theosophy for the year is Rs.1,135,757/- as against Rs.1,151,142/- for the previous year. There is a moderate increase in the expenses in the Adyar Library but the deficit in the Vasanta Press has come down from Rs.246,992 /- to Rs.38102/- .

4. Other Costs:

The administration and other costs have gone up due to inflation and other factors such as increased spending in the Housekeeping Department to maintain furniture & fixtures in good condition and due to additional security costs.

C. Capital Expenditure:

During the year the amount spent on Capital Account is Rs.1,336,709/- and it mainly represents the cost of new buildings and computer and other installations at the Adyar Library and Research Centre.

The scheme to construct first floor accommodation on certain buildings to accommodate delegates attending the Convention is going on and we are hopeful of completing this project within another two or three years. The water supply installations in the estate require renovation and a sizeable budgetary allocation has to be made for it.

D. Funds:

The overall financial position of the Society continues to be satisfactory. During the year, the Adyar Besant Commemorative Fund rose from Rs.31,794,559/- to Rs.34,551,039/- and Other Funds from Rs. 38,513,964/- to Rs.44,407,566/-.

E. Acknowledgement:

On behalf of the Society, I take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the continuing support of the members throughout the world.

Chennai
December 1998

D.K. Govindaraj
Hony. Treasurer

FEES AND DUES RECEIVED
(From 1 April 1997 to 31 March 1998)

Name of the Section	1996-97	1997-98
	Rs.	Rs.
The Theosophical Society in Africa, East and Central ...	—	—
" Africa, South ...	1,038	—
" Africa, West ...	—	—
" America, Central ...	4,657	1,509
" Argentina ...	153,546	155,729
" Asia, South-East ...	18,265	—
" Australia ...	115,449	—
" Austria ...	—	7,796
" Belgium ...	30,145	25,901
" Bolivia ...	15,410	16,949
" Brazil ...	—	551,423
" Canada ...	3,214	3,424
" Chile ...	8,496	—
" Colombia ...	—	1,696
" Costa Rica ...	—	5,189
" Cuba ...	—	—
" Denmark ...	6,603	4,294
" England ...	—	—
" Finland ...	37,518	57,641
" France ...	—	—
" Germany ...	54,706	36,226
" Greece ...	17,215	21,069
" Hungary ...	3,124	7,092
" Iceland ...	16,215	16,159
" India ...	35,411	44,691
" Indonesia ...	—	—
" Ireland, North ...	762	—
" Ireland, Republic of ...	3,532	—
" Italy ...	37,316	52,832
" Ivory Coast ...	—	—
" Mexico ...	1,399	732
" Netherlands, The ...	154,800	—
" New Zealand ...	24,078	21,537
" Norway ...	—	13,459
" Pakistan ...	—	3,450
" Peru ...	—	29,183
" Philippines, The ...	40,049	—
" Portugal ...	—	28,375
" Puerto Rico ...	26,190	21,119
" Scotland ...	3,555	3,455
" Slovenia ...	4,295	3,334
" Spain ...	24,607	27,808
" Sri Lanka ...	—	—
" Sweden ...	—	40,988
" Switzerland ...	—	13,020
" Togo ...	—	—
" USA ...	333,770	307,883
" Uruguay ...	25,383	21,556
" Venezuela ...	2,141	2,235
" Wales ...	1,612	1,831
Lodges attached to Adyar ...	14,640	9,980
Fellows at large ...	28,916	26,708
	1,248,057	1,684,505

**THE THEOSOPHICAL
BALANCE SHEET AS**

Year ended 31-3-1997	LIABILITIES	Schedule No.	Year ended 31-3-1998	
Rs.			Rs.	Rs.
	General Fund:			
23,669,516	Balance as per last Balance Sheet ...		26,669,056	
2,489,292	Add: Transfer from Adyar Estate Improvement Fund ...		300,000	
250,633	Add: Capital Receipts		302,247	
259,615	Add: Surplus for the year ...		313,796	
26,669,056				27,585,099
31,794,559	Adyar Besant Commemorative Fund ...			34,551,039
38,513,964	Other Funds ...	5		44,407,566
4,744,664	Current Liabilities and Provisions ...	6		4,109,515
101,722,243				110,653,219

CHENNAI
30-11-1998

D. K. GOVINDARAJ
Hony. Treasurer

THE THEOSOPHICAL
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Year ended 31-3-1997	EXPENDITURE	Year ended 31-3-1998	
Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
	Departments: (Net Expenditure)		
138,641	Bhojanasala & Leadbeater Chambers ...	122,050	
249,620	Garden ...	632,250	
1,544,454	Maintenance ...	2,743,733	
1,932,715			3,498,033
	Charitable Work:		
131,933	Animal Welfare ...	109,713	
1,268,299	Education ...	832,971	
83,965	Welfare Grants ...	131,994	
119,459	Free Dispensary and Medical Aid ...	97,531	
22,600	School Fees and Books ...	23,000	
28,027	Social Welfare Work ...	20,942	
20,840	Others ...	20,579	
		1,236,730	
73,727	<i>Less: Transfer from Other Funds</i>	31,922	
1,601,396			1,204,808
	Propagation of Theosophy: (Net Expenditure):		
675,526	Adyar Library and Research Centre ...	744,669	
33,071	The Theosophist and Adyar Newsletter ...	38,102	
246,992	Vasanta Press ...	95,997	
70,457	School of the Wisdom ...	72,382	
15,440	T. S. Workers' Training Camp ...	290	
8,936	Information and Public Relations ...	26,010	
116,160	Archives and Museum ...	116,282	
—	Theosophy Science Centre ...	42,315	
1,166,582		1,136,047	
15,440	<i>Less: Transfer from Other Funds</i>	290	
1,151,142			1,135,757
	International Offices:		
57,566	President and Vice-President ...	62,638	
180,067	Treasurer ...	263,319	
136,264	Secretary ...	155,713	
373,897			481,670
	Establishment:		
122,490	Headquarters ...	124,953	
52,663	General Manager's Office ...	66,894	
112,596	House Keeping Department ...	212,830	
160,601	Sanitation Department ...	206,517	
532,603	Security Department ...	771,642	
980,953			1,382,836
6,040,103	c/f		7,703,104

THE THEOSOPHICAL
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Year ended 31-3-1997	EXPENDITURE—Contd.		Year ended 31-3-1998	
Rs.		b/f	Rs.	Rs.
6,040,103		b/f		7,703,104
	Other Expenses:			
3,291	Insurance	...	29,729	
5,470	Legal and Court Expenses	...	56,000	
34,306	Audit Fees	...	40,657	
391,432	Rates and Taxes	...	198,838	
785	Bank Charges	...	1,055	
1,215,926	Depreciation	...	1,143,311	
54,916	Motor Car Expenses	...	37,996	
100,806	Miscellaneous	...	76,662	
200,000	Adyar Estate Improvement Fund	...	400,000	
—	Garden Development Endowment Fund	...	800,000	
2,006,932				2,784,248
259,615	Surplus transferred to General Fund	...		313,796
8,306,650				10,801,148

THE THEOPHICAL SOCIETY

SOCIETY, ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020

BUDGET

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 1998

Year ended 31-3-1997	INCOME—Contd.	Year ended 31-3-1998
Rs.	b/f	Rs.
8,306,650		10,801,148
8,306,650		10,801,148

Notes on Accounts form part of this Accounts. This is the Income and Expenditure Account referred to in our report of even date.

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31-3-2000

EXPENDITURE	Rs.	INCOME	Rs.
Departments (Net Expenditure)		Propagation of Theosophy	
Bhojanasala & Leadbeater Chambers ...	188,000	Theosophical Publishing House ...	176,000
Garden ...	662,000	General Donations ...	200,000
Maintenance ...	3,297,000	Interest ...	9,500,000
Charitable Work		Membership Fees and Dues ...	1,800,000
Animal Welfare ...	300,000	Licence Fees ...	84,000
Education ...	1,200,000	Miscellaneous Receipts ...	500,000
Welfare Grants ...	200,000		
Free Dispensary & Medical Aid ...	150,000		
TOS International ...	25,000		
School Fees and Books ...	75,000		
Social Welfare Work ...	60,000		
Others ...	30,000		
Transfer from Other Funds ...	...	
Propagation of Theosophy			
Adyar Library and Research Centre ...	928,000		
The Theosophist and Adyar Newsletter ...	7,000		
Vasanta Press ...	138,000		
School of the Wisdom ...	120,000		
Workers' Training Camp ...	36,000		
Information and Public Relations ...	60,000		
Archives and Museum ...	500,000		
Theosophy Science Centre ...	60,000		
International Offices			
President and Vice-President ...	90,000		
Treasurer ...	300,000		
Secretary ...	180,000		
Establishment			
Headquarters ...	180,000		
General Manager's Office ...	90,000		
House Keeping Department ...	300,000		
Sanitation Department ...	250,000		
Security Department ...	900,000		
Other Expenses			
Insurance ...	50,000		
Legal Expenses ...	60,000		
Audit Fees ...	50,000		
Rates and Taxes ...	300,000		
Motor Car Maintenance ...	40,000		
Miscellaneous ...	100,000		
Depreciation ...	1,200,000		
Bank Charges ...	6,000		
Excess of Income over Expenditure ...	128,000		
	12,260,000		12,260,000

HEADQUARTERS

OFFICERS AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS FOR 1997

Executive Committee:

- 1. Mrs Rajha Rajan: *President*
- 2. Miss Mary Anderson: *Vice-President*
- 3. Mr Conrad Jorgensen: *Secretary*
- 4. Mr D.K. Govindaraj: *Treasurer*
- 5. Mrs Nouria Y. Sawry: *General Council Member*
- 6. Mr Sundara Narayan: *General Council Member*
- 7. Mr K. Vignashan
- 8. Mr R.M. Tolan

General Manager: Mr K.M. ...
 Library Director: Dr ...
 Librarian: ...

HEADQUARTERS

ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020

INDIA

Headmistress: Mrs Sacha ...
 Director: Mr Harshan ...
 Headmistress: Mrs R. ...
 Information: Mr C. ...
 Librarian: ...
 Headmistress: Mrs ...
 Headmistress: Mr ...
 Librarian: Dr ...
 Headmistress: ...
 School of the ...
 Secretary: ...
 Headmistress: ...
 Headmistress: ...

Dr Ravi Ravindra (Jan-March 1996)
 Dr Richard Brooks (Oct-Dec 1992)

OLEOTT EDUCATION SOCIETY

- Chairman: President, IS
- Secretary: Mr K.P. Sheno
- Treasurer: Mr K. Vignashan

Oleott Memorial School Director: Mrs Padma ...
 Headmistress: Mrs Lakshmi ...
 EPS Hostel: Mr ...
 Social Welfare Centre: Mrs ...

OFFICERS AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS FOR 1997

Executive Committee:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Mrs Radha Burnier | <i>President</i> |
| 2. Miss Mary Anderson | <i>Vice-President</i> |
| 3. Mr Conrad Jamieson | <i>Secretary</i> |
| 4. Mr D.K. Govindaraj | <i>Treasurer</i> |
| 5. Mrs Norma Y. Sastry | <i>General Council Member</i> |
| 6. Mr Surendra Narayan | <i>General Council Member</i> |
| 7. Mr K. Visvanathan | |
| 8. Mr R.M. Tolani | |

General Manager: Mr R.M. Tolani

Adyar Library: *Director:* Dr K.K. Raja

Librarian: Mrs Parvati Gopalaratnam

Bhojanasala: Mrs Sudha Natarajan

Garden: Mr Harihara Raghavan

Housekeeping: Mrs R. Muthiah

Information: Mr C. Seshadri

Leadbeater Chambers: Mrs Uma Nilakanta

Maintenance: Mr Kousik Krishnan

Medical: Dr Susheela Oza

Museum and Archives: Ms Idarmis Rodriguez

School of the Wisdom: *Directors:* Dr Ravi Ravindra (Jan.-March 1998)

Dr Richard Brooks (Oct.-Dec. 1998)

Security: Lt Col F.J. Challisery

Theosophical Publishing House: *Manager:* Mr D.K. Govindaraj

Vasanta Press: Dr N.C. Ramanujachary

OLCOTT EDUCATION SOCIETY

Chairman: President, TS

Secretary: Mr K.P. Shenoy

Treasurer: Mr K. Visvanathan

Olcott Memorial School: *Director:* Mrs Padma Srinath

Headmistress: Mrs Lakshmi Narasimhan

HPB Hostel: Mr Ananta Padmanabhan

Social Welfare Centre: Mrs Radha Muthiah

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS 1998

National Societies and Sections	33
Regional Associations (formed under Rule 35(c))	8
Presidential Agencies	10
Total Lodges and Study Centres	1,130
Total Membership 1997	30,077
Total Membership 1998	30,146

Section/Area	No. of Lodges and Study Centres	No. of Members
1. Africa, East & Central	15	424
2. Africa, South	5	261
3. Africa, West	15	314
4. America, Central	3	36
5. Argentina	32	365
6. Asia, South-East	10	252
7. Australia	13	1,395
8. Austria	3	102
9. Belgium	8	106
10. Bolivia	8	84
11. Brazil	55	892
12. Canada	6	95
13. Chile	4	44
14. Colombia	8	76
15. Costa Rica	3	80
16. Cuba	12	540
17. Denmark	1	34
18. England	45	1,074
19. Finland	24	522
20. France	29	434
21. Germany	7	178
22. Greece	7	270
23. Hungary	3	35
24. Iceland	8	356
25. India	439	12,226
26. Indonesia	10	325
27. Ireland, North	3	28

Section/Area	No. of Lodges and Study Centres	No. of Members
28. Ireland, Republic of	1	18
29. Italy	58	1,200
30. Ivory Coast	3	62
31. Mexico	25	311
32. Netherlands	14	557
33. New Zealand	15	1,106
34. Norway	5	36
35. Pakistan	3	139
36. Peru	3	39
37. Philippines	15	280
38. Portugal	12	239
39. Puerto Rico	6	106
40. Russia	0	22
41. Scotland	9	209
42. Slovenia	3	50
43. Spain	15	348
44. Sri Lanka	6	101
45. Sweden	6	178
46. Switzerland	6	90
47. Togo	2	23
48. USA	125	4,155
49. Uruguay	5	73
50. Venezuela	2	28
51. Wales	2	34
	<u>1,117</u>	<u>29,952</u>

Lodges attached to Adyar

1. Covenant Lodge (Israel)	1	58
2. Japan	3	89
3. Korea	1	19
4. Fellows-at-Large	—	28
	<u>5</u>	<u>194</u>

THE THEOSOPHICAL PUBLISHING HOUSE

The sales figures have gone up although prices have been reduced for distribution in the economically undeveloped areas of the world. The quality of paper and production has been maintained at a high level and, experimentally, the distribution network is being extended.

New publications of the year included a collection of articles and talks of former Vice-President, Mr Surendra Narayan, entitled *Life is for Living*; an illustrated book on Adyar which has been long overdue, for the old one was out of print and also out of date, a number of developments having taken place at headquarters; a reprint of a booklet by Mary Kneff and others to accompany the book on Adyar, giving a historical retrospect which will interest many members; and Dr John Algeo's Besant Lecture on 'Living Theosophy', the first of a

new series of Adyar Pamphlets. In the hope of helping to reduce cruelty practised on animals and create awareness of their needs, *Food for Thought* by Adam Moledina of Singapore was brought out.

The circulation of *The Theosophist* has increased and we have received appreciative letters about the covers, the contents and the quality of the magazine. We hope that with further effort other magazines will also go to a wider public. We are continuing to donate books and magazines to Theosophical Lodges and Study Centres as well as public libraries and learned bodies. A copy of *The Theosophist* has been sent to many persons enquiring about Theosophy and the TS, and some of them have paid life subscriptions for the journal.

Mr D.K. Govindaraj
Manager

THE ADYAR LIBRARY AND RESEARCH CENTRE

The work of the Adyar Library and Research Centre has continued with improvements such as making available information about the oriental collections through a computer in the Reading Room. The programme of computerizing the inventory is continuing.

Pundit K. Ramachandra Sharma, who has a record of more than sixty years service to the Library, retired at the age of 95. He assisted several of

the learned scholars whose works have been published by the Library. He also prepared the *Descriptive Catalogue of Tamil Manuscripts in the Adyar Library* and edited some works which have appeared in the Adyar Library Series or the Pamphlet Series.

During the year 264 books were purchased, and 1089 were received as gifts or in exchange or for review. Photocopies consisting of 42,467 frames were supplied. Besides this,

the usual services were rendered to scholars and students. During the year 5,698 Readers and Borrowers used the Library and 15,022 works were consulted. The number of registered Readers and Borrowers was 326 and 445 respectively.

Miss K. Jaishree was sent to the Government Conservation Institute at Lucknow to take an advanced course in conservation and preservation of manuscripts and books. Under her direction de-acidification and other necessary measures were taken to preserve the Library holdings in good condition.

A stream of visitors came as usual to view the Library's special display. Among the research scholars who availed of the Library's facilities, 8 were from the United Kingdom, 4

from the USA, one each from Japan, Israel, and Australia, 23 from India.

The Adyar Library Bulletin, *Brahma Vidya*, edited by the Director of the Library, Dr K.K. Raja is being regularly published and other works which are in demand are being kept in print. The new works under preparation are: *Colloquium Proceedings*; *Venkatesa Suprabhatam*, text in Devanagari with Roman transliteration and English translation, by Prof T. Venkatarani; *Sarvadarsan Sangraha*; *Sankara Darsana*; *Caturdasalaksani*, Part II, with Pattabhirama Sastri's *Tippani*; *Vaisnava Upanisads*, with English translation by Prof A.A. Ramanathan; and *Brahmavidya* (the Adyar Library Bulletin), vol. 62, 1998.

Mrs Parvati Gopalaratnam
Librarian

THE SCHOOL OF THE WISDOM

The first session of the School was conducted by Dr Ravi Ravindra, Professor and Chair of Comparative Religion and Adjunct Professor of Physics at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada, from 5 January to 20 February 1998 on the theme 'Daily Life as Spiritual Practice'. Thirty-one students from eight countries registered for the course, which dealt with the nature of spiritual practice, the need for transformation and daily life in the presence of Immensity. The Director held discussions with the students which were much appreciated. The study material

consisted of the *Bhagavad gita*, the Gospel of St John, some of J. Krishnamurti's books and three books of Professor Ravindra.

The second session was directed by Dr Richard Brooks, retired Professor of Philosophy and a member of the Parapsychological Association of the USA, from 5 October to 11 December 1998. The theme was 'A Theosophical Study of Religion, Philosophy and Science' and was organized around Annie Besant's talk on *The Theosophical Student in the Face of Revelation, Inspiration and Observation*. The writings of western

and eastern mystics and philosophers relevant to Theosophy were discussed. Eighteen students from six countries attended the course.

During both sessions the students had opportunities to make presentations based on their studies at the Adyar Library and in the classroom. One afternoon a week was used for getting acquainted with the

different departments of work at Adyar. There were, of course, informal gatherings and conversations during which friendships were made and strengthened. The atmosphere of Adyar was found conducive to understanding the subjects in depth.

Mr Conrad Jamieson
International Secretary

ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM

This department was somewhat dormant during the year for lack of suitable personnel. A few enquiries which were received were responded to as and when possible and material suitable to be added to the documents in the Archives was regularly collected. Visitors were guided

through the Museum as required. It is hoped that with the addition of some suitable workers a conservation programme can be undertaken in the near future and the cataloguing work proceeded with.

Ms Idarmis Rodriguez
Officer-in-Charge

OLCOTT EDUCATION SOCIETY

All the units of the Olcott Education Society functioned satisfactorily.

Olcott Memorial High School

The School reopened on 2 June 1997 for the academic year 1997-98. The total strength at the beginning of the year was 700. Sixty students were admitted in Class I. The quality of education provided has been much enhanced by the participation of Mrs Padma Srinath and Mrs Aruna R. as

Director of the School and Coordinator of Studies respectively. This has strengthened the administration and the human dimension among the staff of the School and has resulted in some positive achievements.

As a first task an attempt was made to buttress students in Standard X taking the Board examination. Out of 38 students who appeared, 16 have successfully passed the examination. Subject teachers as well as experts

from outside came forward to help the Class X students. Another successful project was TED (Teaching English to the Deprived). There was a visible confidence and participation in the Primary School.

A long-felt need for changing the uniform of girls from the conventional skirt and blouse to the more convenient salwar kameez has been implemented. Additional furniture for the staff room, library and laboratory have been provided. A new well-furnished teachers room has also been provided.

To supplement classroom learning and to create an awareness among children, workshops on road safety rules, child labour and personal hygiene were conducted. A general medical, dental and leprosy check-up was arranged.

Our students participated in a number of competitions and activities like creative writing, drawing, Tamil essay writing, oratory, etc. Teachers attended a number of workshops, every one of which was a source of personal development and professional advancement.

In sports our children fared well. About 10 children participated in the 'C' Zone sports meet at Rajarathnam Stadium. Our Kabaddi team came second at the District level meet.

India's Independence was celebrated by a two-day cultural programme. Annie Besant's birthday, Gandhi Jayanthi and Olcott Day were celebrated in a fitting manner.

A career guidance programme for outgoing students was initiated for the first time this year.

The craft centre prepared several items for display and sale during the annual International Convention of the Theosophical Society. The whole School wore a festive look and the theme for this year was 'The Art of Living'.

HPB Hostel

The Hostel was managed efficiently under the able leadership of a young and energetic Warden, Mr Ananta Padmanabhan. He was able to cultivate the spirit of mutual trust and affection amongst the children. By drawing up a timetable for the hostel including study, play, music, story telling, reading, indoor games, washing clothes, cleaning the hostel, etc., he provided a proper structure to the children to organize themselves. They were also made aware of the need for regulation. We are happy to note substantial progress in this area.

The children participated in a variety of activities and competitive events both in and outside the Olcott School. Four students of Class IX made a working model to demonstrate the defects of the human eye and its rectification. This model not only found an entry in the interschool science exhibition held by a very prestigious school, but also received a special prize. The children participated regularly in a sea turtle conservation programme—an initiative

of a local environmental group.

The infrastructure of the hostel has been improved by replacement of all broken tiles and now the hostel is more or less completely water proof.

On the side of food, the quantity of milk and vegetables has been increased to help improve the general level of nutrition.

Social Welfare Centre

Mrs Radha Muthiah, the Superintendent of the Social Welfare Centre, made the year eventful for the children, who apart from normal activities, celebrated Independence Day, Gandhi Jayanthi, sports meet, etc. During the parents meeting Dr Revathi addressed the gathering on the subject of family planning, general hygiene and common diseases. A health check-up of all children was also arranged through Dr Revathi.

A nature study camp and an educational trip to the Snake Park and Gandhi Mandapam were enjoyed by the children.

As in the past, the Convention stall, inaugurated by the International President of the TS, displayed the items made in the Centre. As cultural programme and an exhibition arranged by the tiny tots in honour of the

delegates to the Convention attracted much attention.

Banyan Centre for Educators

The year's work was largely centred around teacher development activities in the Olcott Memorial High School. Throughout the year workshops were held in the School on Spoken English. A joint workshop on Mathematics Curriculum was held in co-operation with the Tamil Nadu Science Forum in classes 9 and 10, with the participation of teachers from three other schools at Adyar. Professors and Research Students from the Institute of Mathematical Sciences at Chennai discussed with our teachers problems faced in dealing with the Mathematics Curriculum. As a follow up, Banyan wishes to encourage activities and kits developed at the Rishi Valley Krishnamurti School which will provide enough material for use in classrooms. The Director of Banyan, Miss Aruna R., plans to collect data on careers and higher education opportunities which will help to organize a Career Guidance Programme which will be very useful for the students.

Mr K.P. Shenoy
Secretary, Olcott Education Society

THE THEOSOPHICAL ORDER OF SERVICE

For almost ninety years, the TOS has offered a framework in which people may engage in practical and

humanitarian action, promoting the first object of the Theosophical Society: the formation of a nucleus of

universal brotherhood.

The Theosophical Society, with its emphasis on complete freedom of thought for every member, officially maintains neutrality in regard to controversial political and social issues. The Theosophical Order of Service, on the other hand, acts as a forum where members may air their views on such subjects.

This year an issue of the TOS international bulletin, *The Service Link*, was devoted to animal welfare. Ongoing secondary themes in the bulletin have included theosophical parenting, world peace, and mental illness in the light of Theosophy. A section in Spanish has been added to

the bulletin for our many active members in Spain and Latin America.

In addition to editing *The Service Link's* Spanish pages, Mr Fernando Perez Martin of Madrid has taken over correspondence with our Spanish-speaking workers. He has coordinated the translation into Spanish of the new edition of the healing ritual, to be distributed to TS General Secretaries and TOS National Directors in Spanish-speaking areas early in 1998. He has also prepared an introductory TOS brochure in Spanish for use by new TOS groups.

Mrs Diana Dunningham Chapotin
International Secretary, TOS

REPORTS OF SECTIONS

AFRICA, EAST & CENTRAL

REPORTS OF SECTIONS, NATIONAL SOCIETIES, REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, PRESIDENTIAL AGENCIES, ETC.

(Where necessary, reports have been translated,
edited or condensed.)

R. G. Dwyer

General Secretary

REPORTS OF SECTIONS

AFRICA, EAST & CENTRAL

The Section comprises Lodges in Tanzania, Kenya and Zambia. There are great difficulties in receiving information due to distance and inefficient means of communication. During the last few years there has been a steady decline in membership. The membership as on 30 September 1998 was as follows: Kenya 197, Tanzania 130, Zambia 97, Total 424. In Kenya only two Lodges are really active, namely Nairobi and Nakuru Lodges. In Mombasa, Kisumu, Voi and Meru the Lodges are occasionally operational. There are two active Lodges in Tanzania at Dar es Salaam and Moshi. In Zambia also only two Lodges are trully active, at Mufulira and Kitwe; the other Lodges are partially active and are at Kabwe, Ndola, Lusaka, and Livingstone.

The Section headquarters shifts from time to time to one of the three countries. During the year the National Lecturer, Mr Ruben Thuku, addressed schools and educational institutions in Kenya and Tanzania, as also the Lodges in these countries. He could not visit Zambia.

The Section continues to distribute *The Theosophist* to State-run libraries

and universities. In all the three regions there are well-stocked bookstalls.

The International President visited Lodges in the Section during Easter, 1998. Her programme included public lectures, talks to members and television and radio broadcasts. The work of the Section was discussed in all the different regions.

The Theosophical Order of Service is active. Food, medicines, clothing, schoolbooks, etc., were distributed to homes for the elderly in several places. The Healing Ritual is performed at Nairobi and Dar es Salaam.

It is hoped that Uganda will be back on the Theosophical map again. In 1972, because of political conditions, the seven active Lodges in this country were closed down. But after a visit by the National Lecturer, Mr Thuku, and lectures organized by Mr and Mrs V.M. Shah interest and enthusiasm were generated. There have been regular monthly meetings in Kampala.

H.G. Devani
General Secretary

AFRICA, SOUTHERN

There is improved attendance at public lectures and other activities. Escalating crime has had an effect upon attendance by older members.

The 88th National Convention and 100th anniversary of Johannesburg Lodge were celebrated during the Easter weekend. The Premier of the Province inaugurated it and delegates came from Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya, Austria/Portugal, and India. It was a huge success due to the outstanding talks given by the International President and other speakers. Johannesburg Lodge provided wonderful hospitality and there was a great spirit of co-operation and brotherliness.

In April 1997 my wife, myself and two other members of Pretoria Lodge participated in the East and Central African Convention in Dar as Salaam. The two of us also visited the Lodge in Harare in Zimbabwe. I have also visited and spoken to members in all the Lodges in Southern Africa. Three successful weekend retreats were held

in the Pretoria area.

The membership has been slowly increasing and now stands at 261. This was no doubt due to the sterling efforts of the Lodges. We have been looking at ways to improve publicity and activities and have started advertising our programmes.

Our national Constitution has been updated to accord with the requirements of the International Rules.

The TOS has continued counselling people in difficulties and made donations to various charitable organizations. Large quantities of clothing were collected by our European representative, Herta Vasiloudis, and sent to Bosnia and Rumania. Information about the Southern African Section has been entered into the world-wide Web through the TS in America. This allows us to communicate rapidly with Adyar and other Sections.

Mr T.G. Davis
General Secretary

AFRICA, WEST

It was on 17 November 1935 that the first Lodge, Blavatsky Lodge, at Accra, was chartered in the then Gold Coast, now Ghana. Information from Nigeria is that there was a study group in Lagos around 1908. Brother Brakato-Ateko, of blessed memory,

brought Theosophy to Ghana by means of books obtained from a small bookshop in Lagos. Now, after 63 years, our membership stands at 314, with 15 Lodges and 11 study centres. The small number of members, as compared to other organizations,

indicates our Society's ideals, which are in tune with our Akan tradition of high principles and moral courage.

Two new Lodges were chartered during the year: N. Sri Ram Lodge at Koforidua, Ghana, and Mezam Lodge at Bemanda, Cameroon. Two Lodges in Ghana whose membership dropped below five were converted into study centres.

The annual Convention was held at Accra on 27-28 June 1998 with a good attendance. Representation from other countries was not possible because of difficulties of travel and finance. The theme of the Convention was 'Theosophy and the Challenges in the Next Century'.

A workers course and weekend seminar were held at Accra and Koforidua respectively, which were very interesting because of open discussion after every subject, leading to in-depth understanding. In the workers course world problems and observations in 'On the Watch-Tower' were discussed. Theosophy gives us a vast amount of information to see all events and things in their proper perspective.

In the Lodge study programmes subjects were assigned to members to encourage earnestness in the study of Theosophy. A number of different books were studied.

Brothers J.O. Boakye, Bishop I.K. Zaney, Dr K.A. Tutu and the General Secretary visited several Lodges. The war in Liberia left members too impoverished to pay annual dues, but they met regularly for study. It is hoped that representatives from Cameroon will participate at the next Convention. In Nigeria, in spite of political and other problems, work went on well.

At the Section headquarters there is a full time office assistant to take care of the library, book sales, and other office duties.

An Education Committee consisting of Bishop I.K. Zaney, Dr M.D. Gidigasu and Dr K.A. Tutu was formed and has held meetings to work out study programmes, research, publications and plans for dissemination of Theosophy.

Mr Paul B. Kwakyi
General Secretary

ARGENTINA

The number of members in the Section at the end of the year was 365. The General Secretary visited Cochabamba City in Bolivia and a number of other places in Argentina. He also attended the Inter-American

Theosophical Federation meetings in USA in September 1998.

Activities in the different locations went on normally. In Rosario a course was organized by the National Council for sympathisers and new members

which dealt with historical, administrative, philosophical and other aspects of the TS.

The bimonthly publication, *Theosophy in Argentina*, is in its third year. A course on Theosophical Fundamentals is being prepared by Mr Juan Vinas, to make it available on the Internet.

The annual meeting was held in San Rafael in January, before the summer school, in which a number of

young people from Uruguay participated. In various other places also activities included programmes for youth. Two new youth groups were formed in the cities of Cordoba and Mendoza.

The National Council decided to start a new department for publication work in Spanish. A special trust was established for the printing of books.

Mr Jorge Cesano
General Secretary

AUSTRALIA

Launceston Lodge hosted the 1998 annual Convention, which was a joyous and harmonious one, with Mrs Diana Dunningham Chapotin and Dr Olga Gostin as principal speakers. The National President, Mrs Beverly Champion, visited Pakistan with the National Secretary, Mr Don Fern, and travelled on to Malaysia for the Indo-Pacific Federation Conference, giving many talks. She also attended the international Convention at Adyar in 1997. During the year she spoke at many Australian Theosophical Centres.

The 1998 Australian School of Theosophy was held for ten days to study *The Secret Doctrine* and *The Mahatma Letters*, led by Mr Adam Warcup. Training sessions took place in the afternoon. Students from other Sections in the Indo-Pacific area also attend the School.

The Springbrook Theosophical Education and Retreat Centre moves from strength to strength. Apart from the School of Theosophy, seminars on 'A Theosophical Path of Unfoldment' and 'At the Heart of the Universe' were held.

Advertising in various magazines was financed, resulting in enquiries from the public with 37 people enrolling in our correspondence course. Lodges and certified groups have received complete sets of audiotapes of Adam Warcup's study sessions and copies of Vernon Harrison's book, *H.P. Blavatsky and the SPR* and Emily Sellon's *The Pilgrim and the Pilgrimage*.

As of 31 August 1998 the Section had 1,395 members, an overall decrease of 33 members. There are 13 Lodges, 5 certified groups and 3 discussion groups in the Section.

Theosophical activities continue at the Springbrook Centre in Queensland and the Mount Helena Centre in Western Australia. In Sydney the Young Theosophists group met regularly throughout the year. Many meetings were devoted to discussion of Theosophical concepts, but some members also assisted with practical work, such as cleaning chairs in the meeting room and gardening at the Manor.

It was decided that the World Congress will be held from 13 to 19 January 2001 in the campus of the University of South Wales, where there is accommodation for 500

Lectures and study went on as usual in our three branches at Vienna, Graz and Linz. In August our annual summer school was held in Rohrbach with the theme 'H.P.

The four Lodges in the provincial towns of Antwerp, Gent, Liege, and Charleroi meet regularly to study Theosophical books, have public lectures and offer study courses. In Brussels there are four Lodges studying *The Key to Theosophy*, Krishnamurti videos followed by discussion, Yoga Sutras of Patanjali and astrology. There are also

delegates and an auditorium which can seat 900 people. The venue is close to the city centre.

A valuable property with a partly-constructed building in the southern highlands of New South Wales was donated by Mr Bill Bolaitho to the Section.

The work of the TS in Australia is progressing well and the message of Theosophy is being increasingly brought to the attention of the general public.

Mrs Beverly Champion
General Secretary

AUSTRIA

Blavatsky and the Christian Religion'. It was a smaller gathering this year, as only 30 participants were able to come.

Mr Franz Durkowitzch
General Secretary

BELGIUM

publiclectures and study courses in this city.

At the end of April 1998 there were 106 members. We keep hoping that the number will increase and we do not stop endeavouring to renew and intensify activities.

The Rules of the Section have been thoroughly examined and

recast according to the instructions of the Vice-President, Miss Mary Anderson, prior to which they will

be scrutinized by an Administrative Committee and a lawyer.

Dr H. van der Hecht
General Secretary

BRAZIL

The total number of members is 892, showing an increase of 38 compared to the previous year. The reason was mainly due to members who paid up arrears of dues. We have 37 Lodges and 17 study centres, but there is much work to be done. As in many countries, the weight of the work rests on a relatively small number of dedicated members. Several national and regional gatherings took place throughout this large country, without this affecting the regular weekly meetings of the Lodges and centres.

In the Brasilia Institute of Theosophy the international winter gatherings took place in July 1998, which included an inter-American Youth meeting with representation from Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Mexico.

With the arrival of Mr Jan N. Kind in Brazil the national library has been thoroughly reorganized, classified and computerized. A world-wide appeal brought an encouraging response and many books were received as a donation from Adyar, Krotona, Sri

Lanka, etc. We are most grateful to all of them. Many lectures have been recorded on videos which are offered at a low price. A new project is to put the TS in Brazil on cable television.

The Publishing House brought out several books as usual. They include allied literature which helps to increase sales.

There is a new momentum in the work of the TOS due to the enthusiasm and energy of Prof. Adolfo J. Silva, the National Director. Two halls were prepared and equipped on the farm of the Brasilia Institute for children to study and have recreation. These children receive permanent care as a result of the donations and efforts of a board of ladies who run the home for children at the farm.

Apart from Brasilia, in Sao Paulo there are the Raja Centre and the Pythagoras Institute, where there are regular theosophical activities. Several national events are organized in these centres.

Mr Ulisses Riedel de Resende
General Secretary

CHILE

Local members and visiting lecturers from other Sections presented a wide range of basic theosophical subjects. The use of video programmes and broadcasts through Radio Universal Chile supplemented the Lodge activities.

Study courses on meditation, the *Bhagavad-gita*, *The Mahatma Letters* and Kriya Yoga were presented, as well as correspondence courses.

The Section celebrated Foundation Day, Adyar Day, and White Lotus

Day. New members were admitted at the time of the Vaishak full moon.

The Section magazine is entirely home designed and produced, as are the pamphlets for disseminating Theosophy.

There are 3 Lodges in Santiago and 1 in Valparaiso, with a total of 44 members, which is a drop from the previous year's figure of 59.

Mr Maximiliano Aguilera
General Secretary

COLOMBIA

The Section's magazine, with selected theosophical articles, is published monthly by Mr Gabriel Burgos Suarez. Booklets on different theosophical subjects are also available. In Bogota there are four Lodges meeting every week and, in addition, a 'Let's Meditate' group, has workshops for beginners as well as meditation sessions. Meetings are also arranged outside the capital from time to time on such subjects as 'Can we build a better life?', and 'Theosophy's transforming power and the Theosophical Society's marvellous

mission'. All the major theosophical dates were commemorated. A lecture titled 'Homage to Annie Besant' was delivered by Mrs Gabriel Burgos. Musical concerts were given by Mrs Julia Ballesteros de Martinez, accompanied by Mrs Beatriz Acosta de Aconcha. A basic course on Theosophy by Mr Gabriel Burgos, which was organized in March and September 1998 was also recorded and made available on video cassettes.

Mr Jesus Antonio Rojas
General Secretary

CUBA

The Cuban Section has continued its work with its 12 Lodges, 8 of them in Havana City, functioning in the building of the Section, and the other 4 in the cities of Matanzas, Santa Clara, Cienfuegos and Sancti Spiritus. Seven of the Lodges in Havana have members meetings fortnightly, and the eighth one, weekly. Every month the Section holds one or two public meetings. Two basic courses for enquirers were completed and a new one was started in August. The last one began with a large attendance.

The annual Convention took place in January 1998 with a programme almost completely consisting of experiences of Gaspar Torres in the School of the Wisdom and the international Convention at Adyar. A group of young members presented in dramatic form some of the principal teachings in *At the Feet of the Master*.

In all the Lodges the special theosophical dates were celebrated. Public meetings in Havana followed the themes taken from other Section's summer schools, etc., with the intention of being in contact with the studies of brothers and sisters elsewhere. For example, Annie Besant's *The Theosophical Student in the Face of Revelation, Inspiration and Observation* was studied at the same time as in the School of the Wisdom at Adyar.

The TOS, which was inactive for several decades, has been resuscitated. Seven groups have been formed in Havana for different kinds of work. Later we expect to attract members of Lodges outside Havana to the work of the Order.

Mr Gaspar Torres Martinez
General Secretary

ENGLAND

In April 1998 Mr Peter Barton was elected as General Secretary in place of Miss Lilian Storey. The Executive Committee unanimously decided to implement a report by the Section's Assets and Resources Committee which made it clear that we must define our theosophical imperatives before trying to come to decisions on the use of properties and assets in London, Camberley, etc. A

paper on our theosophical imperatives was presented by the General Secretary and wholeheartedly endorsed by the Committee, after which it was made available to other members.

The paper stressed that the underlying purpose in everything that we do is unfoldment. To quote HPB's words: 'Theosophy is the art of God-craft... The release of the shining

self'. Only when we form an active, vibrant, spiritual nucleus will we attract people who will respond to the teachings and join us in the task. The quality of our doing depends upon the state of our being, the extent to which the Shining Self has been allowed to unfold. 'This is a call to action... Prepare for service.'

The year began with an Annie Besant commemoration evening on 1st October with a video on her life and a lecture by Miss Lilian Storey, which was followed with a programme on the spiritual work of Annie Besant.

There are regular lectures, seminars and so forth at the headquarters in London. Study groups and courses on 'Theosophy, a Way to Self-Discovery', *The Secret Doctrine*, etc. were organized. The headquarters programme is being reconsidered in the light of our imperatives.

Visitors to the headquarters included Mr Conrad Jamieson, International Secretary, Dr John Algeo, General Secretary of the TS in America, Mrs Algeo, and the

President of the Johannesburg Lodge, Mrs Nete Burford.

There is an interesting, and perhaps encouraging trend in the membership, namely, a reduction in unattached members and an increase in Lodge members. The 1998 summer school was held in Lester, with the theme 'The Powers Latent in Man' and an attendance of 78 and other part-time and day visitors, making a total of 130. There was the usual round of activities at Tekels Park, including Federation Conferences and a weekend to study *The Secret Doctrine*.

It was decided to make every effort to regenerate Tekels Park and that there should be a members' weekend every month.

Among the members who passed away during the year was Mrs Madeleine Leslie-Smith, who was Chairman of the European Federation for nine years and much loved, particularly by younger members.

Mr Peter Barton
General Secretary

FINLAND

The year was full of festivity on account of the 90th anniversary of the Society in Finland. Two of the founding Lodges are still active and also celebrated their anniversaries, namely, Kalevala Lodge and Sampo Lodge. The main function took place on 16 November 1997 in the richly-

decorated 'Building of the Nobility' in Helsinki, with about 250 people present. The programme included music and speeches, and Mrs Kirsti Elo, then General Secretary, gave a summary of the history of the TS in Finland. In November the magazine *Ultra* published an article on Adyar by

Mrs Elo, and also the text of an interview with the President, Mrs Radha Burnier. A commemorative publication contained the talks given by Mr Yrjo Kallinen in the Septima Lodge from 1941-54. He was Vice-President of the TS in Finland for a considerable time and later Minister of Defence in the Finnish Government.

The summer school in the Kreivila Centre was conducted by Miss Joy Mills on *The Mahatma Letters to A.P.*

Sinnett. The Letters were published in Finnish in chronological order.

The annual Convention also took place in Kreivila on 16 May 1998, when Mr Yrjo Kumila was elected as General Secretary.

There are 24 Lodges in the Section, one in Estonia and 2 study groups with a total of 522 members. The Section magazine is brought out six times in a year and reaches all these members.

Mr Yrjo Kumila
General Secretary

FRANCE

The programme of activities proceeded regularly during the year, consisting of courses, public lectures, celebrations of important days, video programmes of Krishnamurti, etc. In addition, there were two workshops led by Prof. Phan-Chon-Tôn and Miss Trân-Thi-Kim- Diêu.

The national Convention held in

June was very harmonious. The Section will celebrate its centenary in 1999 and we hope this event will bring about regeneration.

In the provinces some groups are very active, but a number of Lodges are inactive.

Mme Danielle Audoin
General Secretary

GERMANY

People in Germany are mainly concerned with material comfort and the gratification of an expensive way of life which implies having less time for contemplation of spiritual subjects. This situation has led to fewer members being willing to work in a regular and responsible manner. With a membership nearing 200 there is only a handful of people available to

take up duties. The Lodges have to cope with the same problem.

Membership in the Section now stands at 180. Theosophical studies and discussions are preferred by most of the members to lectures. Public relations work has improved by the distribution of a newly-created magazine and a new information pamphlet.

Work in former East Germany stagnates because of inability to find members to do the difficult work of laying the foundation for activities.

The summer school was held in July 1998 again at Lippstadt. The number of participants was less than expected, but those who did attend shared in intensive probing of spiritual depths for seven days. The Vice-

President, Miss Mary Anderson, was the guest of honour.

The German School of Theosophy took place in October and was successful, with many participants. Many members from Switzerland and England also joined the School. Spring and autumn weekend meetings took place in north and south Germany as usual.

Mr Ger Baron v.d. Osten-Sacken
General Secretary

GREECE

All seven Lodges in Greece continue their work. In several of them there were lectures every day and the attendance by members and visitors was very satisfactory.

The Section magazine, *Ilisos*, is

sent to TS members and to friends of the Society. It has about 1,500 subscribers and helps in spreading theosophical ideas.

Mr P. Anagnostou
General Secretary

ICELAND

The work has been going on harmoniously. In Reykjavik, the capital, the programme included lectures, group discussions and meditation classes for beginners and advanced students. Public lectures generally attracted 40 to 60 persons. Prior to the discussions short talks were given and later on light refreshments were served.

The summer school was held from 24 to 29 June at Laugarvatn. A tight programme of lectures, discussions and meditation went on from morning until the late summer night. Prof. P.

Krishna, of the Krishnamurti Foundation, India, who is a TS member, was the guest speaker and conducted many dialogues apart from giving lectures. His participation was both informative and spiritual.

Three Lodges are active outside Reykjavik. The Section's magazine, *Gangleri*, is published in the fall and in spring. The subscribers are three times as numerous as the members of the Section. The Section's Newsletter, *Mundilfare*, was published thrice during the year.

The annual General Meeting was held on 2 May 1998, when Jon L. Arnalds was elected as the General Secretary. Einar Adalsteinsson, former General Secretary, passed away on 9 July, during the European Congress held in Belgirate, Italy. He is greatly mourned and remembered

for his extensive contribution to the Section's activities.

We feel that general public interest in the TS in Iceland is growing, and activity within the Section is very lively compared to the first years of this decade.

Mr Jon L. Arnalds
General Secretary

INDIA

The 107th annual Convention was held in the last week of December 1998. During this period the announcement was made that Mr M.P. Singhal had resigned as General Secretary, and Mr S.M. Umakanth Rao had been appointed as Acting General Secretary, who was later elected as General Secretary for three years. A symposium took place on the 'Relevance of Dr Besant in Modern India'.

The membership, which was 11,837 at the beginning of the year, was 12,226 at its end—an increase of 389. Several devoted, long-standing members passed away. The number of Lodges and centres at the end of the year was 439. Of these, some do not have the required strength.

As usual, many study classes and camps were held in the various Federations, and the National Lecturers travelled widely. However, not much effort has gone into organizing sufficient publicity.

Most of the Federations bring out journals in the local language which also announce programmes in advance. Publication of theosophical literature in the local languages is assuming greater importance, as English-knowing members are fewer in number.

The Indian Bookshop at the Varanasi headquarters of the Section published *The Key to Theosophy* translated into Hindi by Dr R.S. Gupta.

A meeting of the Presidents and Secretaries and a few senior members of the 6 Federations in South India was held at Bangalore in August 1998. Propagation of Theosophy through the regional languages, selection and training of workers, and measures to safeguard and manage properties were the subjects taken up for discussion. Such meetings of workers are planned for the eastern and western regions.

At Malegaon, in Maharashtra, a unique programme was organized to

promote brotherhood between Hindu and Muslim communities. More than 250 people of both communities attended and Dr V.R. Ghole presided and delivered a talk on 'Universal Brotherhood'. Such functions should help in promoting the much-needed atmosphere of harmony and understanding.

Among the many activities at the national headquarters is an annual study camp. On 5-11 October 1997, the International President directed the study camp, taking as the subject Annie Besant's book, *Thought Power*:

its Control and Culture. Attending were 128 members coming from ten different Federations. She also gave two public lectures, one on the relevance of Dr Besant's thought today. Under the aegis of the Section, several educational institutions are being run in the campus. During the past year a good deal of attention was given to putting the buildings used by these institutions and by residents in good order.

Mr S.M. Umakanth Rao
General Secretary

INDONESIA

The annual Convention was held from 9-11 May in the premises of the centrally-located Sala Lodge, which is the permanent venue for the annual meeting. There was an attendance of 61 members from 9 Lodges. White Lotus Day was commemorated during the Convention, and after it a seminar on 'Universal Harmony' followed. Extracts from papers presented at the Indo-Pacific Conference in Kuala Lumpur were read and there were group discussions afterwards involving all participants. Bro H.M. Soesiswo was re-elected as General

Secretary for another three-year term.

Translations of *At the Feet of the Master* and *Introduction to Theosophy* consisting of lectures by Geoffrey Hodson given in Java in 1938 were published and distributed. Foreign book orders and journal subscriptions have all been suspended because of the sharp increase in cost. Fortunately, TPH Adyar is granting free subscriptions to Indonesian members for *The Theosophist*.

Mr H.M. Soesiswo
General Secretary

ITALY

I would like to begin this report by highlighting the voluntary work done by numerous brothers and sisters who have given of their time and energy. Further, thanks to the generosity of members in the past the Italian Section's financial position is completely sound.

A new Lodge and a new study centre have come to birth in Milan, named Luce (Light) and Maitreya respectively. On the whole Lodge activities in the Section have been greater and more effective than in the past. The General Secretary has kept in contact with almost all Lodges and centres and has visited several of them and held lectures and discussions.

The Italian Theosophical Review was sent free of cost to major cultural institutes, libraries and universities thanks to the help given by some members.

Several new publications were brought out in Italian, including *The 'K.H.' Letters to C.W. Leadbeater*, *Two Books of the Stanzas of Dzyan*, *Thought Power, Its Control and Culture*, and *The Ancient Wisdom*.

In March 1998 the 8th seminar, jointly organized with the European Federation, took place in Sorrento. The international Secretary, Mr

Conrad Jamieson, gave talks to members in various places.

The most important event of the year was the European Congress held in Belgirate, Italy, along with which we also had the 84th national Congress of the TS in Italy. Mr Antonio Girardi was re-elected as General Secretary at this national assembly. All the events took place in a constructive and serene atmosphere with a large number of participants.

The Italian Section has also been active in the field of service. The TOS supported the printing of literature for Eastern Europe and contributed to the relief of earthquake victims in Umbria and the maintenance of the Olcott School at Adyar and various other causes.

On the whole, the activities of the Section have been varied and intense. In the future, effort must be put into integrating the work of the Lodges and encouraging exchanges between them, and also involving members in service activities. Some Lodges remain isolated, depriving members of the benefit of exchange with other brothers, which is facilitated by attendance at seminars and congresses, all of which provide opportunities for learning brotherhood.

Mr Antonio Girardi
General Secretary

MEXICO

The most notable development of the year was the establishment of two Lodges and one study centre in Merida (Yucatan), where formerly there was a strong Lodge, and in Tepoztlan. At the national headquarters two courses were held: one introducing Theosophy, and the other a study of *The Secret Doctrine*. A seminar was organized in the city of Merida on 'Man, Whence, How and Whither'. Another one was held in Guadalajara, and a third in Mexico City on 'Deity,

Cosmos and Man'. The national Convention was held on 30 October in Chapala, Jalisco.

The Young Theosophist movement was resuscitated and there is now an active group meeting weekly at the national headquarters.

We participated at meetings of the Inter-American Federation in Cochabamba, Bolivia, and in Wheaton, Illinois.

Mrs Lisette Arroyo Jimenez
General Secretary

THE NETHERLANDS

The membership is increasing. Our national activities attract a good audience and the national study groups are doing well. We meet Lodge boards once a year to discuss ways of working, exchange new ideas, etc. Our attempt is gradually to start new groups where we have no Lodge or centre yet.

The third reprint of the *Yoga Sutras*

of Patanjali translated into Dutch was brought out with a beautiful new cover. C.W. Leadbeater's *The Chakras*, and Frank Visser's book, *Zeven Sferen*, were reprinted. The television interview of Mrs Radha Burnier made during the Centenary was broadcast for the third time.

Mrs Ali Ritsema
General Secretary

NEW ZEALAND

The national Convention was held in Wellington from 8 - 12 January 1998 on 'Enriching our Lives with Theosophy'. The guest speaker was Dr Robert Ellwood, who gave excellent talks and participated in panels and discussions. Other visitors from abroad were the late Dr John

Cooper from Australia, who presented a three-day seminar in Auckland on 'The Wisdom Tradition of the Ancient World'. He also gave public lectures. Another successful seminar was given by Mr Adam Warcup of England on 'A Mind to Embrace the Universe'.

I have visited and spoken at all branches and centres as have a number of other experienced members. It is only by sharing the workload that it is possible to maintain a full programme and a stimulating variety of presentations.

Dr Richard Brooks toured most of our Lodges and conducted a seminar in Auckland. His visit gave a great lift to our spirits. At Auckland he delivered lectures on 'Theosophy and Moral Dilemmas' and 'Theosophy and Chinese Philosophy', which drew big audiences.

As part of the foundation training for our work, I conducted a weekend seminar in Christchurch in April 1998 and a one-day seminar in Nelson in September 1998 on basic theosophy entitled 'Theosophy—a Way of Life'.

The e-mail discussion group, with a small core of staunch supporters, reviewed varied topics. Many others listen and respond from time to time. The web site has many visitors and is expanding slowly as articles with a New Zealand flavour become available. The suitcase bookshop, video library, postal library and the Section's journal, *Theosophy in New*

Zealand, all continue to render service regularly.

The downward trend in membership seems to have been arrested. Most of our gains were made by H.P.B. Lodge in Auckland, while some other Lodges are struggling on.

The Orewa Centre for retired members maintains full occupancy only by allowing younger members and even non-members to rent accommodation. This has brought energy to the Orewa Lodge.

Among those who passed away during the year was Miss Clarice Elizabeth Gregory, who was a very dedicated member and General Secretary of the Section for some time; also Mr Stewart G. Nicholes, who was international Treasurer at Adyar for a few years. The value of our Society is dependent upon the commitment and enthusiasm of our members. In recent years we have lost many older and dedicated members who are not easily replaced.

Happily, the Society is still able to attract some serious minded and altruistic individuals.

Mr Gavin F. Laurie
General Secretary

NORWAY

The membership situation has grown worse with the death of 9 members and the transfer of one, while we were able to gain only one new member. This is very

djsappointing, as we have done much work, with a total of only 36 members.

There was a meeting in Copenhagen which was both pleasant and positive, with two of us from

Norway and ten Danish members. We had a lot to talk about and hope to rebuild the mutually-beneficial co-operation that used to exist in the old days.

Regular public meetings were held in Oslo which were advertised in the web page of the TS in America.

There were also group meetings to study Patanjali's *Yoga Sutras*.

A central problem is the lack of place for our library. Regardless of setbacks the work to rebuild the Section will continue.

Torstein A. Tobiassen
General Secretary

PHILIPPINES

The Rexal Chela study group located in Tanay, Rizal, has now been chartered as a Lodge. The national headquarters has resumed its monthly public lectures with such topics as 'Self-transformation', 'Meditation', 'The Path', 'Desirelessness' and the teachings of Krishnamurti. The National President was invited to give public lectures in several places in Japan and Australia. He also spoke to various bodies such as Rotary Clubs and scout groups within the country.

In a pioneering effort the Section published as an electronic book *The Secret Doctrine* by HPB, which is being distributed in the US by the TS in America. Beginning with the first quarter of 1998 *The Theosophical Digest* is simultaneously published by the Indian Section of the TS and in Malaysia for circulation to the general public. The TS in the Philippines has now its own web site, in addition to the web site on Peace Ideas and the

Self-Transformation outline series. The General Secretary conducted self-transformation seminars in a number of different places. In connection with these, two facilitators-training seminars were held in preparation for wider public work.

Preparation is going on for a pilot peace education programme in areas where there has been inter-religious violence. The UN Development Programme is considering funding a peace education project that will train school teachers, to be implemented by the TS. Five youth camps were held in different cities with heart-warming results. The behaviour and personality of young people has undergone change for the better. In Bacolod City the Besant Montessori School was opened in June 1998. There are also a Montessori Learning Centre and a TOS Learning Centre run by theosophists.

Mr Vic Hao Chin, Jr
General Secretary

PORTUGAL

Public lectures or symposia were held every month and Lodge meetings every week. The last few years have been difficult because much repair work had to be done at headquarters. But our quarterly magazine, *Portugal Teosofico*, has been published regularly and its contents have been improved so that it is accepted even outside the TS.

The General Secretary published four small books to help the study of members. These have also found favour outside the Society.

We are always trying to improve our work.

Mrs Maria G. Nobre Santos
for *General Secretary*

PUERTO RICO

We are very grateful for the visit of Mr Fernando Torrijos from the United States, who gave a number of talks and appeared on television during the week he was in Puerto Rico. His visit had a great beneficial impact.

Our Lodges have conducted different theosophical courses during the year, one on *The Voice of the Silence*, and one on Taimni's teachings on Theosophy. Musical concerts were arranged, and visits were made to different parts of the island.

The annual Assembly was held on 22 February 1998 with full participation. The General Secretary stressed the need for a spirit of fraternity and service.

The work of the Ponce Lodge was reorganized. A meeting place is being sought for this Lodge. Theosophy in Puerto Rico had its beginnings in Ponce.

The General Secretary also visited the Atma Lodge in Santo Domingo, Dominica, where a new Lodge President has been elected who is eager to improve the work.

A group of members visited 'Olcott' when the Inter-American Conference was held there. This was a very rewarding experience and we discussed how to strengthen our Lodges. We presented plans to organize a seminar in Puerto Rico for the Caribbean Basin.

Mrs Magaly Polanco
General Secretary

SPAIN

Regular correspondence has been carried on with Lodges and groups, and a new edition of the 'Welcome to New Members' letter was prepared. We continue the legal action to recover the piece of land in Alicante called El Alcaid.

There was an Easter gathering on Brotherhood and a summer school with the theme 'Christianity and Buddhism — One Single Path'. The Easter gathering of 1999 is to have as its theme the third object of the Theosophical Society, and the summer school 1999 will be on 'Spiritual Regeneration'.

Intensive attempts were made to disseminate Theosophy in various cities. We can say that the TS in Spain is growing in number and in quality. Dr Angel Rubio and Isaac Jauli were active in running the Instituto Teosofico HPB. The latter gave several courses and workshops in different Lodges.

Our magazine, *Sophia*, brought out by Consuelo Buron and her team is distributed in many Spanish-speaking countries and we receive congratulations.

The following were among the books reprinted: *La Vida Interna*, *La Voz del Silencio*, *A los Pies del Maestro*, *Fundamentos de la Teosofia Esoterica*. A translation of the *Dhammapada* was published for the first time.

What is most important for our work is the wisdom which enables us to be a team with different perspectives and opinions. We should always remember that our ideal is to work for the benefit of humanity. If we base our work upon this, we will never fail.

Miss Maria Carmen Cesar Galante
General Secretary

SRI LANKA

In March 1998 the undersigned was elected General Secretary. Brother Britto Motta, the national Treasurer, is a chartered accountant and our finances are now in good hands.

A resurgence of the membership is apparent and new members are coming in.

For a long time the Lodges in Colombo have been meeting together in headquarters. We have appointed a sub-committee for the propagation of Theosophy, to re-define our priorities and to make a drive for the effective management of Lodges.

A quarterly newsletter edited by Sister Khulsum Edirisinghe is issued. The library is in a neglected state and we propose to obtain the services of a qualified part-time librarian.

At the headquarters there were public lectures every second Saturday and group discussions on fourth Saturdays. A public meeting was held on 17 May 1998 at Galle to commemorate the 118th anniversary of the arrival in Ceilon of Colonel Olcott and Madame Blavatsky. Another commemorative meeting in honour of

Colonel Olcott was held in Hansa Lodge, Badulla, on 25 July 1998, with the participation of local school students and leading citizens.

Visits to Lodges and member participation is essential. Adequate funds are needed, our main income for the present arising from the hiring of the headquarters hall. We need to make the headquarters hum with vibrant activity.

Mr Tudor Jayewardene
General Secretary

SWEDEN

Our Section was formed in 1895 and now has 178 members and 6 Lodges. At the headquarters in Stockholm there are regular public lectures by members and other speakers. The Lodges have lectures and study meetings.

In May we had a 'spring school' on 'Esoteric Philosophy and our Daily Life' with Mr Colin Price from England, who was the guest speaker. Seven Swedish members participated in the European Congress in Italy.

Our journal continues to be issued four times a year. For more than twenty years we have been managing a bookshop in Stockholm for the public, but there seems to be a grave imbalance between the production and the dissemination of our books. Hence, our next productions will be an attempt at good photocopying or computerized printing.

Mr Gunnar Larson
General Secretary

SWITZERLAND

No report.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

This Section is the oldest and second largest in the Society, with 127 organized groups. Of the total membership about 52% are members at large, 37% are Lodge members, and about 11% are members of study centres. The largest Lodge in the Section is the National Lodge, which was chartered in July 1996 and began to function in 1997. It started with 63 members and has now increased to about 450. It studied *The Voice of the Silence* through monthly study papers and last September added on 'The Pilgrim and the Path: Living Theosophy', based on a book by I.K. Taimni. Many National Lodge members are also members of local groups.

Field work has consisted primarily of making national speakers available to local groups. The headquarters coordinated 132 programmes by 18 speakers. 'Olcott' Experience weekends were designed to familiarize members who have had little direct contact with the national centre with its facilities and capabilities. Evaluations have been positive and many past participants keep in contact with us and use the available resources.

The Young Theosophists have been meeting weekly at 'Olcott' and studying the *Introductory Study Course in Theosophy* in combination with speakers, field trips, and videos.

Service work has also been encouraged.

In September the programming at 'Olcott' begins with an Open House, which was attended by more than 500 people last fall and brought financial success to the Quest Bookshop and TPH. Thursday evening public lectures are held throughout the year. The *Chicago Tribune* published an informative and sympathetic article on the TS.

A new study course on *Astrology: A Handbook for Beginners* by Louise C. Bromley was published, as well as a bibliography of the works of Annie Besant compiled by Mary Jane Newcombe. During the past year a bumper crop of excellent Quest Books was published. The Audio-Visual Department produced 37 new titles, including *Ancient Chinese Wisdom for Modern Times* by Richard Brooks and *Ancient Wisdom of Modern Japan* by Robert Ellwood. Four new videos have also been produced. A new guide has also been issued, listing all the audio and video programmes for borrowers. Our main periodical is the *Quest* magazine, with four issues a year directed to the public and the other eight specifically for members.

The American Section is blessed with two organizations that provide financial support and which were created by the foresight of earlier members. The Theosophical

Investment Trust was created in 1955 to manage the investment of funds by seven Trustees. The other organization is the Kern Foundation, established by Herbert Kern and now

overseen by his son John Kern. This Foundation supports educational and outreach programmes of all kinds.

Mr John Algeo
General Secretary

URUGUAY

The Rio Plata workshops were organized jointly by the TS in Uruguay and Argentina in September in Montevideo, and in November in Buenos Aires. Young Theosophists organized some special activities.

In November Mr Juan Cassibba from Argentina conducted a course in Theosophy and also coordinated a programme on 'Learning to Die—Is it Possible to Die without Fear?'. Silvia Blajer and Elsa Mazzini did workshops on 'Making Contact' and 'The Causes of Suffering', the latter attracting many members and the public.

We celebrated Adyar Day by following the procedures used at

Adyar on that day so as to create a real Adyar atmosphere. The international Vice-President provided us with pertinent information.

Our radio programme, 'New Humanity', continues to be aired and we receive calls from listeners who seem to be in permanent touch with Theosophy. Sister Annita Ruiz volunteered to visit the houses of members who were unable to come to the Section to pay their dues. This has put us in closer contact with those who cannot attend meetings frequently and reduced the outstanding dues by forty percent.

Mrs Mercedes F. de Buscarons
General Secretary

REPORTS OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

AMERICA, CENTRAL

No report.

CANADA

Our 6 Lodges and 2 study groups remain steady in membership and in activities. Queries continue to come in mainly through e-mail. Consideration is being given to having our own web page. Every Lodge and study group, and many individual members can now be reached by e-mail.

In June 1998 the annual Business Meeting was held in Vancouver, after which the Regional Secretary gave a talk on 'Our Work, Direction and Aspirations in the Canadian Federation Today'. Several new Bylaw changes were made.

The Regional Secretary visited various Lodges, groups and members, which served to forge stronger links. Lotus Lodge in Calgary celebrated its 50th anniversary during her visit.

The Light Bearer continues to serve our membership well, and also goes to a few enquirers and friends. The Federation Library in Montreal has been made available to all members and new catalogues were printed. The TOS holds a very modest place in our activities at present.

Mrs Elizabeth M. Smith
Regional Secretary

IRELAND, NORTHERN

The highlight of the year's activities was the visit of Mrs Helen Gething as guest speaker in June. She was accompanied by a group of members from Dublin Lodge. During the year public meetings were fairly well attended and so were members'

meetings. As usual, most of the speakers were Lodge members.

No change was made in the office bearers at the annual meeting held in December 1997.

Mr John Doherty
Organizing Secretary

IVORY COAST

The number of our members has increased from 39 in 1997 to 62, thanks to the quality of our activities and greater publicity. Our real difficulties are material and financial.

On 25 January 1998 we held our first national Convention as a Regional Association at our headquarters with enthusiasm and joy. On 9 and 10 May we celebrated White Lotus Day and the Vaisakh full moon.

In July, as Organizing Secretary, I took part in a local radio programme with many listeners, and thus the theosophical message was passed to the public. In August we had the equivalent of a summer school at our headquarters, and every weekend we have been organizing prayers for group consciousness, brotherhood and

the divine light, in which the public also participates.

Finally, following this beautiful theosophical year, our young Regional Association hopes to benefit from real support from the TS.

Mr Pierre-Magloire Kouahoh
Organizing Secretary

SCOTLAND

Our Lodges have produced programmes of wide-ranging interest, yet still promoted the core values and concepts of Theosophy. Among the outstanding visiting speakers were Miss Mary Anderson, International Vice-President, and Mr Rajni Patel. Material received from Australia provided a focus for study, meditation and discussion.

The annual Convention was held in Dundee where, though the attendance was lower than last year, all Lodges were represented. Membership has

increased to just over the 200 mark. Financially, the drain on our reserves has been plugged with the leasing of the ground floor of the headquarters building.

The Council met five times during the year and its concern continues to centre round strengthening the organizational structure, so that an efficient base is provided for the promotion of Theosophy.

Alastair MacQueen
Organizing Secretary

SLOVENIA

The total number of members is now only 50, nevertheless work continued smoothly. The Lodges meet weekly and the members have studied and discussed translations of talks given at summer schools in Naarden and Rohrbach, Austria, and articles from different theosophical

magazines, as well as the contents of books.

Surya Lodge in Koper is attempting to form a study group in Maribor. The President of the Lodge and others have been visiting interested people there and giving talks to the public.

The President of Adyar Lodge in Ljubljana translated I.K. Taimni's *Self-Culture* and it was printed in May this year. Summer schools were held as usual in Ljubljana and in Koper. Among the speakers at these schools were Miss Mary Anderson, Mr Edoardo Bratina from Italy, Mr Hans Nickl from Austria, and Mr Laszlo Reicher from Hungary. We are grateful for theosophical magazines received from several countries.

We have no premises of our own to keep the library and where members can gather. This is a serious handicap. The TS in Slovenia has also suffered from so-called theosophical programmes held by other groups.

The annual Convention was held on 13 June 1998 and Mrs Irena Polanc Kristan was elected as Organizing Secretary.

Ms Irena P. Kristan
Organizing Secretary

TOGO

No report.

WALES

The Cardiff Lodge has lively weekly study groups for members and the public with about thirty people attending. TS members from neighbouring Bristol are also invited to give talks. The TOS is fading away.

At Colwyn Bay members are meeting regularly but public talks were fewer because of lack of interest

from the public in spite of advertisements.

In mid-Wales a new study group has been formed which is presently studying *The Key to Theosophy* by HPB. Earlier in the year two of the group joined the TS.

Mrs Ingrid Eberhard-Evans
Organizing Secretary

REPORTS OF PRESIDENTIAL AGENCIES

ASIA, SOUTHEAST

A new Lodge was chartered at Chittagong and a nuclear group formed at Kulna in Bangladesh. During the year there was a net increase of 50 members in Singapore, bringing the total of Southeast Asia to 252, not including members in Myanmar, who unfortunately are not free to follow their theosophical interests.

The outstanding event of the year was the 7th Indo-Pacific Conference organized by Selangor Lodge in Kuala Lumpur, where the International President, Mrs Radha Burnier, and Miss Joy Mills were the chief lecturers. There was representation from most of the countries in the region.

In Singapore the new office bearers are pushing the work forward. The

The summer school was held from 10-15 January 1998 having as its theme 'The Mystique of the Andean Culture'. Bro Juan Carlos Palmeri from Argentina participated in the programme for four days.

Adyar, White Lotus and Foundation Days were celebrated with different Lodges coordinating each one. On 8-9

dynamic Secretary, Bro Chong Sanne, supported by his wife, Mrs Lily Chong, who is the Librarian, sponsored three courses on basic Theosophy, as a result of which 32 new members joined. The Library of about 2,000 books has been reorganized and made more attractive.

In Malaysia the Selangor Lodge held regular meetings while Seremban Lodge met monthly to study the *Gita*. In Penang a variety of books on the spiritual life were studied.

Political and economic conditions affected the work in Bangladesh, despite which progress was made. Bro B.L. Bhattacharya is supplying books in Bengali and is planning a second visit to Bangladesh.

Dr C.V. Agarwal
Presidential Representative

BOLIVIA

August 1998 there was a national study programme in San Benito coordinated by the local Lodge

All the Lodges had regular study programmes. Plans are being made for the work in 1999.

Teresa W. de Nuñez
Presidential Representative

COSTA RICA

All the Lodges had weekly meetings in which basic courses of Theosophy were given and public lectures were also arranged. Group studies included the study of The Secret Doctrine, The Essence of Meditation, and Taimni's Self-Culture. The main theosophical days

were jointly commemorated by the Lodges.

We hope to strengthen the study groups outside San Jose. We have regular contact with the Lodges in Central America.

Mr Jaime Hernandez Hostaller
Presidential Representative

DENMARK

This year we have resumed members' meetings, which we have not had for some years. I have organized a small theosophical centre in my home with meeting room, library and meditation room. Adyar and White Lotus Days were celebrated here.

There was a joint meeting in May with two members from Norway. The purpose was to get to know each other and start cooperation. The Norwegian and Danish languages being similar, we hope to publish books together.

We have a home page on Internet with links with other TS groups all over the world which has brought inquiries from a lot of people. We

propose to bring out a quarterly Danish magazine called *Tidens Teosofi* (Contemporary Theosophy). The Danish translation of *The Foundations of the Esoteric Philosophy* compiled by Ianthe Hoskins was reprinted in a very nice edition.

Public lectures are being arranged in rented premises in the central part of Copenhagen, all of which are given by members and deal with Theosophy. During the last year we presented seven public lectures. Our membership now stands at 34 spread in one Lodge and two study groups.

Mr Flemming Hansen
Presidential Representative

HUNGARY

I have taken up the complete work of the Presidential Representative from January, before which there were formalities to go through, both in

relation to the Governmental authorities and the TS members in Hungary.

Two study groups and a translation group continue their work on the

booklet *Foundations of Esoteric Philosophy*. We tried to bring this concentrated text nearer to everyday life. In the translation group, work went on to compile Hungarian terms for the basic expressions in Theosophical literature. We commemorated White Lotus Day.

Mr Laszlo Reicher continued his activity as a lecturer. At present we have 35 active members.

Mr Thomas Martinovich
Presidential Representative

IRELAND, REPUBLIC OF

The year was successful for our work in Dublin. Weekly meetings were held and theosophical study classes took place on Thursdays. Contact has been made with like-minded groups.

We are on the way to solving the problems which have afflicted us during several years in regard to the property and organization.

Mrs W. Woods
Presidential Representative

PAKISTAN

There are three Lodges in Pakistan, the largest of which is the Karachi Theosophical Society, founded on 21 December 1896. From a small nucleus of 7 members it has grown into a body with 158 members. The Lodge maintains a large, well-used library and reading room open to the public. The TOS, established in 1962, is active in helping the poor, sick and needy.

Besant Lodge in Hyderabad, Sindh, has had several ups and downs. During the year efforts were made to revitalize its work and regular activities are now going on. Its library needs to be reorganized and members

in Pakistan and elsewhere are being requested to donate books. Members from Karachi visit Hyderabad to help the Lodge gain strength. The Mahtani Foundation have donated large funds to renovate the fine Lodge building.

The third Lodge, which is also in Karachi, has weekly meetings mainly with the help of the Mahtani family.

The International President visited the Lodges in Karachi and Hyderabad and delivered public lectures. The TS in Pakistan would be happy to receive more such visitors.

Mrs Gool K. Minwalla
Presidential Representative

PERU

During the year we organized a number of public talks, two of which were in the auditorium of the National Library with satisfactory public participation. The others were in smaller places which were rented for the purpose. A public course was offered in March and April with a good attendance and courses for members were conducted by Sister Edith Pomar.

All the Lodges had regular study which included such books as those of Arthur Powell, Radha Burnier's *Human Regeneration*, and Leadbeater's books on the occult life.

All the important theosophical days were commemorated. Some members from Peru attended the meeting on Andean Mysticism organized in Bolivia by the Inter-American Federation. The membership stands now at 39. We have a bulletin called *Busqueda*. A group of workers take care of the library.

The TOS directed by Bro Jorge Melgarejo has been active and provided hospitalez children with toys and sweets. Similar other work is also going on.

Mr Julio Gerardo Pomar
Presidential Representative

RUSSIA

There are 17 members now in Russia, in Magnitogorsk and in Moscow. Two study groups in Magnitogorsk and one in Moscow have taken up theosophical books such as Joy Mills' *Living in Wisdom*, *The Voice of the Silence*, and Annie Besant's *A Study in Consciousness*.

Three members participated in the European Congress in Italy. The first Russian Theosophical Seminar took

place in Moscow and was conducted by the Chairman of the European Federation, Miss Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu, with the assistance of Mrs Nano Leguay.

We will soon be sending an application to the International President for the chartering of a Lodge in Magnitogorsk.

Mrs Nina Veligon
Presidential Representative

VENEZUELA

In order to train workers in the administration of the Society,

responsibility was given to selected persons to carry out specific duties.

The rules were updated and the authorities were approached to change the name of the Venezuelan Section of the TS to the Theosophical Society in Venezuela.

Two issues of our bulletin *Unity* were brought out. Public lectures took place at the headquarters every month, as a result of which new sympathisers are attending. On Foundation Day the admission of new members took place.

The Presidential Representative participated in a lecture series at the Indian Embassy entitled 'Divine Wisdom — A Legacy of India for the World Today'. Her work was supported by Bro Martin Lyderman of the American Section.

Other activities included a special meeting to mark the 45th anniversary of the foundation of the TS in Caracas and another one to commemorate the 151st birth anniversary of Annie Besant.

There have been regular study programmes in the Lodges under the direction of Mrs Nelly Nouel. Meetings of the Order of the Round Table including recreation for the children and ecological trips were organized. The library at the Section headquarters was kept available.

Miss Mariela Lasso Salas
Presidential Representative

REPORTS OF FEDERATIONS

EUROPEAN FEDERATION

The memorable event of the year was the organizing of the 33rd European Congress in Italy presided over by the international Vice-President. Twenty countries were represented and the lectures, discussions and workshops were marked by enthusiasm and seriousness.

Programmes in Russia and the Ukraine were carried out in spite of alarming news reports. The first School of Theosophy for the Fellows-at-Large was held in Moscow on

'Essential Qualifications for Spiritual Life' based on *At the Feet of the Master*, and *Vivekachudamani*. This was immediately followed by a seminar on 'Theosophy Applied to Science, Religion and Society' for FAL and sympathisers. Vegetarian food was shared by the participants in Dnepropetrovsk in the Ukraine. A seminar on the same subject and several extra programmes were organized.

The Federation has been promoting spiritual activities at the International

Theosophical Centre at Naarden. The building of a new Guest House and Dinning Hall is nearly complete. This will facilitate the accommodation of participants at the workers' gathering

in July next, when the President will formally inaugurate the Guest House.

Miss Trân-thi-Kim-Diêu
Chairman

INDO-PACIFIC FEDERATION

The Federation held its triennial Conference in Malaysia from 5-9 December 1998 with the theme 'The Universal Law of Harmony'. All the member countries except Bangladesh and Korea were represented. During the Conference Mr Vicente Hao Chin, Jr was re-elected as President.

The Federation funds are held in a trust account by the TS in Australia. The delegates at the Conference agreed that member Sections should contribute one percent of their annual dues to the Federation.

The Federation President held Self-Transformation Seminars in Sydney, Perth and Singapore in July 1998 and also gave public talks in

Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth. He also delivered lectures in Tokyo and Osaka in the place of Mrs Radha Burnier and addressed a members' meeting in Kyoto.

An appeal is being made to the authorities in Vietnam to allow the resumption of TS activities in the country. The Australian Section continues to sponsor a student to attend its School of Theosophy held every year in Queensland.

The next Conference of the Federation will be held in Sydney simultaneously with the World Congress in 2001.

Mr Vicente Hao Chin, Jr
President

INTER-AMERICAN FEDERATION

This Federation interlinks the theosophical organizations in the Americas and aims at strengthening the movement by coordinating the programme of guest speakers, etc.

During the year two outstanding events took place: An inter-American summer school in the city of Cochabamba in Bolivia from 10-

15 January 1998 with 120 persons attending; the second event was the Conference in Wheaton, Illinois, held from 17-21 September 1998 with the support of the Kern Foundation. On this occasion Mr Alfredo Puig Figueroa was elected President of the Federation and Mr John Algeo as Vice-President. A

collection of US\$ 336/- was made for the social work at Adyar.

The next meeting of the Federation will be in Mexico City in May 1999. The Puerto Rican Section

is preparing for a gathering of members from the Caribbean Basin to be held in 2000.

Jan N. Kind
Secretary

REPORTS OF LODGES ATTACHED TO ADYAR

BANGLADESH

There are 3 Lodges, one in Comilla and two at Chittagong. Study of theosophical literature is going on. Books and their magazine in Bengali have been received from

Calcutta. News of theosophical work in Bangladesh has appeared in different newspapers.

Mr B.L. Battacharya
For Members

ISRAEL

Covenant Lodge in Tel-Aviv has now 58 members but its mailing list includes 1600 sympathisers. We have a Circle of 53 Friends of the TS who are not ready to join but pay membership fees and want to be in closer touch with us.

A members' meeting is held every fortnight to study fundamentals of Theosophy and public meetings take place in a rented hall once a month with invited lecturers and members giving talks with 70-100 in the audience. Once a month we go out for a day in nature study and meditation with about 40-50 non-members.

Two seminars took place during the year in October 1997 and April 1998, the subjects being 'Creating a Reality of Light' and 'Being Simple and Simply Being'. Four introductory courses were offered in Tel-Aviv, where there are also meditation courses.

In February Krishnamurti Day took place in a rented hall in Tel-Aviv jointly organized by the Krishnamurti groups in Israel on the subject 'You are the World'. On 8 May 1998 Blavatsky Day was open to the public during which we read and discussed HPB's special teachings.

The thirteenth issue of our magazine *Or* was released. We are very grateful to the Vice-President, Miss Mary Anderson, for her visit.

Abraham Oron
President, Covenant Lodge

JAPAN

No report.

KOREA

A general assembly of the members takes place every three weeks and group meetings are

also held to study theosophical subjects.

Mr Lim Kil Young
President, Korea Lodge

MINUTES

OF THE MEETING OF THE
GENERAL COUNCIL

DIRECTORY

AND

MINUTES

OF THE MEETING OF THE
GENERAL COUNCIL

Date of Publication	Name of Section	General Secretary	Editor
1917	First Series	Mr. J. C. ...	...
1918	Second Series	...	...
1919	Third Series	...	...
1920	Fourth Series	...	...
1921	Fifth Series	...	...
1922	Sixth Series	...	...
1923	Seventh Series	...	...
1924	Eighth Series	...	...
1925	Ninth Series	...	...
1926	Tenth Series	...	...
1927	Eleventh Series	...	...
1928	Twelfth Series	...	...
1929	Thirteenth Series	...	...
1930	Fourteenth Series	...	...
1931	Fifteenth Series	...	...
1932	Sixteenth Series	...	...
1933	Seventeenth Series	...	...
1934	Eighteenth Series	...	...
1935	Nineteenth Series	...	...
1936	Twentieth Series	...	...
1937	Twenty-first Series	...	...
1938	Twenty-second Series	...	...
1939	Twenty-third Series	...	...
1940	Twenty-fourth Series	...	...
1941	Twenty-fifth Series	...	...
1942	Twenty-sixth Series	...	...
1943	Twenty-seventh Series	...	...
1944	Twenty-eighth Series	...	...
1945	Twenty-ninth Series	...	...
1946	Thirtieth Series	...	...
1947	Thirty-first Series	...	...
1948	Thirty-second Series	...	...
1949	Thirty-third Series	...	...
1950	Thirty-fourth Series	...	...
1951	Thirty-fifth Series	...	...
1952	Thirty-sixth Series	...	...
1953	Thirty-seventh Series	...	...
1954	Thirty-eighth Series	...	...
1955	Thirty-ninth Series	...	...
1956	Fortieth Series	...	...
1957	Forty-first Series	...	...
1958	Forty-second Series	...	...
1959	Forty-third Series	...	...
1960	Forty-fourth Series	...	...
1961	Forty-fifth Series	...	...
1962	Forty-sixth Series	...	...
1963	Forty-seventh Series	...	...
1964	Forty-eighth Series	...	...
1965	Forty-ninth Series	...	...
1966	Fiftieth Series	...	...
1967	Fifty-first Series	...	...
1968	Fifty-second Series	...	...
1969	Fifty-third Series	...	...
1970	Fifty-fourth Series	...	...
1971	Fifty-fifth Series	...	...
1972	Fifty-sixth Series	...	...
1973	Fifty-seventh Series	...	...
1974	Fifty-eighth Series	...	...
1975	Fifty-ninth Series	...	...
1976	Sixtieth Series	...	...
1977	Sixty-first Series	...	...
1978	Sixty-second Series	...	...
1979	Sixty-third Series	...	...
1980	Sixty-fourth Series	...	...
1981	Sixty-fifth Series	...	...
1982	Sixty-sixth Series	...	...
1983	Sixty-seventh Series	...	...
1984	Sixty-eighth Series	...	...
1985	Sixty-ninth Series	...	...
1986	Seventieth Series	...	...
1987	Seventy-first Series	...	...
1988	Seventy-second Series	...	...
1989	Seventy-third Series	...	...
1990	Seventy-fourth Series	...	...
1991	Seventy-fifth Series	...	...
1992	Seventy-sixth Series	...	...
1993	Seventy-seventh Series	...	...
1994	Seventy-eighth Series	...	...
1995	Seventy-ninth Series	...	...
1996	Eightieth Series	...	...
1997	Eighty-first Series	...	...
1998	Eighty-second Series	...	...
1999	Eighty-third Series	...	...
2000	Eighty-fourth Series	...	...
2001	Eighty-fifth Series	...	...
2002	Eighty-sixth Series	...	...
2003	Eighty-seventh Series	...	...
2004	Eighty-eighth Series	...	...
2005	Eighty-ninth Series	...	...
2006	Ninetieth Series	...	...
2007	Ninety-first Series	...	...
2008	Ninety-second Series	...	...
2009	Ninety-third Series	...	...
2010	Ninety-fourth Series	...	...
2011	Ninety-fifth Series	...	...
2012	Ninety-sixth Series	...	...
2013	Ninety-seventh Series	...	...
2014	Ninety-eighth Series	...	...
2015	Ninety-ninth Series	...	...
2016	One hundred Series	...	...

DIRECTORY

Ex-Officio Members of the General Council

President: Mrs Radha Burnier
Vice-President: Miss Mary Anderson
Secretary: Mr Conrad A. Jamieson
Treasurer: Mr D.K. Govindaraj

National Societies, Regional Associations and Presidential Agencies

Date of Formation	Name of Section	General Secretary	Address
1947	Africa, East & Central	Mr H.G. Devani	...PO Box 22385, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania
1909	Africa, Southern	Mr T.G. Davis	...22 Buffels Rd., Rietondale 0084, Pretoria
1956	Africa, Western	Mr P.B. Kwakyi	...POBox 720, Accra, Ghana
1929	America, Central*	Mr José Roberto Hernandez	...A. P. 05-109 San Salvador, El Salvador
1920	Argentina	Mr Jorge Cesano	...Rivadavia 533 2200 San Lorenzo, Santa Fe
1990	Asia, South East	Dr C.V. Agarwal	...The Theosophical Society, Varanasi 221 010, India
1895	Australia	Mrs Beverley Champion	...4th Fl., 484 Kent St., Sydney, NSW 2000
1912	Austria	Mr Franz Durkowitsch	...Altmühlweg 5/6, A-4810, Gmunden
1911	Belgium	Dr H. van der Hecht	...166 Rue de la Cambre, 1200 Brussels
1965	Bolivia†	Mrs Teresa W. de Nuñez	...Casilla de Correo 3911, Cochabamba
1920	Brazil	Mr Ulisses Riedel de Resende	...Sociedade Teosofica no Brazil, SGAS Quadra 603, No.20, CEP70200-630 Brasilia (DF)
1924	Canada*	Mrs Elizabeth Smith	...PO Box 123, Wellington, Ont., KOK 3L0
1920	Chile	Mr Maximiliano Aguilera	...Casilla 3603, Santiago
1937	Colombia	Mr Jesus Antonio Rojas	...Cra. 6, No. 56-40, Bogota-2
1997	Costa Rica†	Mr Jaime Hernandez Hostaller	...Apdo 2986-1000 San Jose
1905	Cuba	Mr Gaspar Torres Martinez	...Apartado de Correos 6365, La Habana 10600
1918	Denmark†	Mr Flemming Hannsen	...Ystadvej 38, DK-2850 Naerum
1888	England	Mr Peter Barton	...50 Gloucester Place, London W1H 4EA
1907	Finland	Mr Yrjo Kumila	...Vironkatu 7c2, 00170, Helsinki
1899	France	Mme Danielle Audoin	...4 Square Rapp, 75007 Paris
1902	Germany	Ger Baron v.d. Osten-Sacken	...Freiligrath-Ring 6, D-40878 Ratingen
1928	Greece	Mr P. Anagnostou	...25 Voukourestiou St., 106 71-Athens
1907	Hungary†	Mr Thomas Martinovich	...Hunyadi Janos ut 17. II. 8, H-1011 Budapest
1921	Iceland	Mr Jon L. Arnalds	...PO Box 1257 Ingolfsstraeti 22, 121 Reykjavik
1891	India	Mr S.M. Umakanth Rao (Offg.)	...The Theosophical Society, Varanasi 221 010
1912	Indonesia	Mr H.M. Soesiswo	...Jalan Oto Iskandardinata III/G. 336, Jatinegara, Jakarta 13340, Timur
1949	Ireland, Northern*	Mr John Doherty	...30, Hillsborough Drive, Off Woodstock Rd., Belfast BT6 9DS

DIRECTORY

1919	Ireland, Rep. of	Mrs W. Woods	...31 Pembroke Road, Dublin 4
1902	Italy	Mr Antonio Girardi	...Corso S. Felice e S. Fortunato 256, 36100 Vicenza
1991	Ivory Coast*	Mr Pierre-Magloire Kouahoh	...23 BP, 3924 Abidjan 23, W. Africa
1919	Mexico	Ms Lissette Arroyo Jimenez	...Ignacio Mariscal 126 Col. Tabacalera C.P. 06470 Mexico 1, D.F.
1897	Netherlands, The	Ms Ali Ritsema	...Tolstraat 154, 1074 VM Amsterdam
1896	New Zealand	Mr Gavin Laurie	...18, Belvedere Street, Epsom, Auckland 3
1913	Norway	Mr Torstein A. Tobiassen	...PO Box 2889, Toyen 0608 Oslo 6
1948	Pakistan†	Mrs Gool K. Minwalla	...Jamshed Memorial Hall, M.A. Jinna Road, Karachi
1924	Peru†	Mr Julio Gerardo Pomar	...Jr. Republic de Portugal 152, Brena, Lima-5, S.America
1933	Philippines, The	Mr Vicente Haó Chin, Jr.	...Corner P. Florentino and Iba Streets, Quezon City
1921	Portugal	Dr Humberto Alvares da Costa	...Campo Martires da Pàtria 69, r/c-Dto., 1150 Lisboa
1925	Puerto Rico	Mrs Magaly Polanco	...GPO Box 36-1766, San Juan, 00936-1766
1994	Russia †	Mrs Nina Veligon	...Pereulok Soviet House 4 Flat 556,455036 Magnitogorsk
1910	Scotland*	Mr Walter Roy	...28 Great King St., Edinburgh EH3 6QH
1992	Slovenia*	Mrs Irena Kristan Martinova	...P O T 35, SLO - 1210, Ljubljana
1921	Spain	Miss Maria Carmen Cesar Galante	...Virgen de Iciar 15 - 1º A, 28220 Madrid
1926	Sri Lanka	Mr Melwin Herath	...24/A Shady Grove Av., Colombo 8
1895	Sweden	Mr G. Larson	...Stroemkarlsvaegen 84, S-167 62 Bromma
1910	Switzerland	Mr Edwin Nathan	...9, Avenue Eugene-Pittard, 1206, Geneva
1997	Togo*	Mr M. Dam Tsowu	...BP 215, Atakpame, W. Africa
1886	USA	Dr John Algeo	...PO Box 270, Wheaton, IL 60189-0270
1925	Uruguay	Ms Mercedes F. de Buscarons	...Javier Barrios Amorin 1085 Casilla de Correos 1553, Montevideo
1953	Venezuela†	Miss Mariela Lasso Salas	...Calle 116 No. 11-09 Apto. 501 Santafe de Bogota, Colombia, S. America
1922	Wales*	Mrs I. Eberhard-Evans	...206 Newport Road, Cardiff CF2 1DL, UK

The Council of the European Federation of National Societies:	<i>Chairman:</i>	Miss Tran-Thi-Kim-Diêu, 67 Rue des Pommiers, 45000 Orleans, France
Inter-American Theosophical Federation:	<i>President:</i>	Mr Ulisses Resende, SGAS Quadra 603, No.20 (CEP-70200-630), Brasilia (DF) Brazil
Indo-Pacific Theosophical Federation:	<i>President:</i>	Mr V. Haó Chin, Jr., Corner P. Florentino and Iba Streets, Quezon City, The Philippines

* Regional Association

† Presidential Agency

Additional Members of the General Council

- Dr Hugh Shearman, 623 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3LQ, U.K. (for 1996, 1997 and 1998)
- Mr S.S. Varma, The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai 600 020, India (for 1996, 1997 and 1998)
- Mr Gabriel Burgos Suarez, Transversal 19, No. 61-32 Bogota-2, Colombia (South America) (for 1997, 1998 and 1999)
- Mrs Linda Harris, 484 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia (for 1997, 1998 and 1999)
- Miss Tran Thi Kim Dieu, 67 Rue des Pommiers, 45000 Orleans, France (for 1995, 1996 and 1997)
- Mr K. Visvanathan, 7 Park View Road, Srinivasa Avenue, Chennai 600 028, India (for 1998, 1999 and 2000)
- Mr Paul Zwollo, International Theosophical Centre, Valkeveenselaan 19, 1411 GT Naarden, The Netherlands (for 1998, 1999 and 2000)
- Mr Curt Berg, Sparrisbacken 63, S-165, Hasselby, Sweden (for 1999, 2000 and 2001)
- Miss Ianthe Hoskins, 37 Victoria Hill Road, Hextable, Swanley, Kent BR8 7LL, England (for 1999, 2000 and 2001)
- Miss Joy Mills, 22 Krotona Hill, Ojai, CA 93023, USA (for 1996, 1997 and 1998)
- Mr Surendra Narayan, X-7 Haus Khas, New Delhi 110 016, India (for 1999, 2000 and 2001)
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MINUTES

***Of the meeting of the General Council of the Theosophical Society held on
Friday, 25 December 1998, at Adyar***

PRESENT

Mrs. Radha Burnier	<i>President (in the chair) and proxy for South Africa, Cuba, Belgium, Uruguay and Argentina</i>
Miss Mary Anderson	<i>Vice-President and proxy for Sweden, Germany, Brazil, Miss Joy Mills and Miss Ianthe H. Hoskins</i>
Mr. Conrad Jamieson	<i>Secretary and proxy for New Zealand, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Mr. Gabriel Burgos Suarez</i>
Mr. D. K. Govindaraj	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mr. S. M. Umakanth Rao	<i>Offg. General Secretary, India</i>
Mr. Tudor Jayawardene	<i>General Secretary, Sri Lanka</i>
Mr. Surendra Narayan	<i>Additional Member and proxy for U.S.A. and Mr. S. S. Varma</i>
Mrs. Linda Harris	<i>Additional Member and proxy for Australia</i>
Mr. Paul Zwollo	<i>Additional Member and proxy for the Netherlands</i>
Miss Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu	<i>Additional Member and proxy for Portugal, France, Italy and Spain</i>
Mr. K. Visvanathan	<i>Additional Member</i>

Present by invitation as Observers:

Mr. Alfredo Puig	<i>President, Inter-American Federation</i>
Dr. C. V. Agarwal	<i>Presidential Representative for South- East Asia</i>

The President warmly welcomed the members attending the General Council and the observers present.

The list of proxies was read out as recorded above.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held at Adyar on 25 December 1997, which had already been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

2. Matters arising out of the Minutes

(a) *Greece*

The Greek Section has not yet amended its Rules to conform with the International Rules and Regulations and has asked for more time in which to do so, stating that the amendments will, in accordance with Greek law, have to be submitted to a General Assembly, which will be held only in March 1999, and then to the competent authorities.

When a Section does not conform to the International Rules, it cannot be recognized by the Society. The Greek General Secretary should be asked to submit immediately the amendments proposed to be put before the General Assembly in March. The Council will be kept informed of further developments.

The Council was informed that the Section's annual report contained hardly any information, no details of the work being done in the lodges and of other activities, if any. We cannot gather information from their magazine, since it is in Greek.

(b) *World Congress, Sydney, 2001*

Mrs. Linda Harris, Additional Member and proxy for the General Secretary of Australia, reported that the venue of the Congress has been changed to the University of New South Wales, which is located near the centre of the city and contains a hall seating 940 persons and accommodation for about 500, hotels also being situated nearby. Posters and brochures will soon be sent to Sections etc. Lecturers will be finally decided on when it is known who will attend the Congress and the need for translations will be reviewed later when there is a picture of how many non-English-speaking delegates will attend.

The Congress will open on the evening of 13 January and close on 19 January at midday. Half a day will be reserved for a General Council meeting and some time for the Indo-Pacific Federation and, if necessary, for the other two Federations to meet. A detailed programme cannot yet be drafted, but a framework will be prepared.

(c) *Work around the World*

The TS in Austria, with only three lodges, and in Norway, with five lodges and 36 members, will have to be certified as Regional Associations.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

3. Confirmation of Voting

(a) *Re-election of Vice-President*

The President had nominated Miss Mary Anderson for re-election as Vice-President under Rule 11(a) of the Rules and Regulations.

The result of the voting was:

<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstained</i>	<i>Total</i>
36	—	1	37

Miss Mary Anderson was declared re-elected as Vice-President for the years 1999, 2000 and 2001.

(b) *Re-election of Additional Members for the years 1999, 2000 and 2001*

The President had nominated Mr. Surendra Narayan, Miss Joy Mills, Miss Ianthe Hoskins and Mr. Curt Berg under Rule 2(b) of the Rules and Regulations for re-election as Additional Members of the General Council.

The result of the voting was:

	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstained</i>	<i>Total</i>
Mr. Surendra Narayan	36	1	—	37
Miss Joy Mills	37	—	—	37
Miss Ianthe Hoskins	35	2	—	37
Mr. Curt Berg	36	1	—	37

The four above named were declared re-elected as Additional Members of the General Council for the years 1999, 2000 and 2001.

4. Report of the Non-English Publications Fund Committee

The Vice-President reported that there had been no grants during the year ended 30 September 1998. An application from Norway had been withdrawn. The list of books recommended for translation was being revised.

5. Report of the International Finance Committee

The Vice-President submitted the report of the International Finance Committee for the year ended 30 September 1998.

6. Report of the Executive Committee for the year ended 30 September 1998; Executive Committee for 1999

Salient points from the minutes of the Executive Committee were presented.

The following were appointed members of the Executive Committee for 1999:

Mrs. Radha Burnier	<i>President</i>)	
Miss Mary Anderson	<i>Vice-President</i>)	
Mr. Conrad Jamieson	<i>Secretary</i>	)	<i>Ex-officio</i>
Mr. D. K. Govindaraj	<i>Treasurer</i>)	
Mr. Surendra Narayan	<i>General Council Member</i>		
Mr. K. Visvanathan	<i>General Council Member</i>		
Mrs. Norma Sastry			
Mr. R. M. Tolani			
Mr. K. P. Shenoy			

7. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1998

The Treasurer's report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 1998, which had previously been circulated, were considered. It was noted that the overall financial position of the Society continued to be satisfactory. The report and accounts were adopted.

8. Budget for the year ending 31 March 2000

The budget for the year ending 31 March 2000, which had been previously circulated, was considered and adopted.

9. Auditors for the year ending 31 March 2000

Messrs. Fraser and Ross were appointed auditors of the Theosophical Society for the year ending 31 March 2000.

10. Work around the World

(a) Ireland

The difficulties in connection with the Lodge building in Dublin were largely settled. The Presidential Representative, Mrs. Win Woods, has asked to be replaced. But since there is only one Lodge (with 18 members), that Lodge will be attached directly to Adyar.

10. Work around the World (Continued)

(b) *Denmark*

Under Mr. Flemming Hansen as Presidential Representative, progress has been made; public lectures were held and the TS is on the internet; a Danish edition of *Foundations of Esoteric Philosophy* is planned and the first issue of a new magazine has appeared. Cooperation with the Norwegian Section is being planned.

(c) *Eastern European Countries*

There are now 32 Fellows-at-Large in Russia. An application has been submitted to form a lodge in Moscow. Work in Hungary is proceeding in four study groups. There is little news from Lithuania, but *At the Feet of the Master* has been translated. There is no contact with Bulgaria; contacts with Rumania are through László Reicher. Work continues in Slovenia, with the prospect of a new lodge. The group of Fellows-at-Large in Croatia is now meeting on the outskirts of Zagreb.

(d) *Other countries*

Progress has been reported in the efforts to obtain permission from the authorities to re-establish the TS in Vietnam.

An application for a Lodge Charter has been received from the Dominican Republic, hitherto under the wing of Puerto Rico.

Difficulties in Sri Lanka were outlined by the General Secretary of the Section and steps to vitalize the Section discussed, including sending some suitable persons from Adyar to hold theosophical seminars or deliver lectures.
